



Ghanaians Queensland

Annual Report 2011-12

President's report

2012 has been a defining year for the Ghana Australia Association of Queensland Inc. or Ghanaians Queensland as we have come to know it.

The Management Committee's term started with a mandate from the community to revitalise the association, engage more actively with the Ghanaian community and be more visible within the wider African community.

For the 2011-12 term, our aims were to:

- increase the association's visibility
- increase the number of activities
- improve interactions and communications among members
- be an active Management Committee that met more often to plan activities and initiatives
- secure appropriate venues for functions.

We have achieved a lot over the year, with numerous events and initiatives, which are outlined in this report. We also faced many challenges, which we began to tackle, and which we hope the new Management Committee will progress.

My sincere thanks to the community for their faith in the Management Committee and for supporting the events and initiatives we delivered this year. It is heartening to see the community spirit and great turnouts at all our events this year.

My thanks also to the members of the Management Committee for their service this year. It takes a lot of commitment to serve the community, especially with the busy lives we all have.

Yet it is this commitment that builds and strengthens our community. I encourage everyone to contribute in any way they can; whether it is serving on the Management Committee or helping out at association activities.

While I will not contest the presidency for the next term due to growing work commitments, I will always be on hand to support the association and the community in any way I can.

Ben Agyare

Communicating with the community

Talking drum

We resurrected the Talking Drum newsletter to provide regular community updates. We sent out 14 editions during this term.

Website

We redeveloped our website (www.ghanaqld.org) to make it more dynamic and give our organisation a professional online presence. Our thanks again to Kobla Kurenty for volunteering his time to develop the website.

Facebook

We debuted on Facebook this year with an active page (www.facebook.com/ghanaiansqueensland) which now has 298 friends. This has been a useful platform to engage young members of the community and share news, pictures and videos about activities in Queensland and back in Ghana.

Email

We also set up a new email address (ghanaians@ghanaqld.org) to match our online domain name and give us a more professional look.

Contact details registration

We went through the process of updating our contacts database for community members to make sure everyone's details was up to date so everyone gets our updates.

New brand

We launched our new logo in January along with the short form version of our association's name 'Ghanaians Queensland'. The new logo combines the Ghanaian flag with the stars of the Australian Southern Cross.

Supporting the community

Meeting new arrivals

One of the things we focused on this year was to develop a process for supporting new arrivals.

We were keen to know when there were new people so we could support and welcome them into the community. We put together a protocol to achieve this.

We were somewhat successful at this but there is room for improvement. This is a major challenge for the association.

We need everyone in the community to actively support the Management Committee in this process by passing on the association's details or passing on new arrivals' details to the association.

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.

Football funding application and support

The association developed and submitted a \$7000 funding application to the Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership program for funding for the Ghana Football Association for sports equipment.

The football team has represented our community at several events this year including the Refugee Day Festival and the African Football Association tournament. The association supported the team by providing first-aid and sport drinks during the Refugee Day tournament.

Events and activities

Boxing Day BBQ

We kicked off this term with the Boxing Day BBQ to start the process of re-engaging with the community. The event was well attended.

Ghana Kente Ball and DVD

The inaugural Kente Ball to celebrate Ghana's 55th Independence Day was a resounding success with over 200 people attending, including the Ghana High Commission to Australia and other members of the African community, giving us the opportunity to showcase our culture.

Africa Day Festival

The association hosted a food stall at the Africa Day Festival in May with the Ghana cuisine on show proving popular with festival attendees. Many in the community turned out to support the food stall and also provide a Ghana presence at the event.

Refugee Day Festival

The Ghana Football Association represented our community well at the Refugee Day tournament.

Republic Day Picnic

The Republic Day Picnic was another popular event in July with many braving the cold to join the festivities.

Annual General Meeting

One of the recommendations at the last AGM in was for the AGM and Christmas party to be two separate events. The Management Committee responded and scheduled the AGM for September, allowing us to hold a standalone Christmas party in December.

Opportunities for the future

Establishing an Australia wide Ghana Association

There have been discussions through the High Commission about establishing an Australia-wide association for Ghanaians. This is a good development and one we can all benefit from. It also presents an opportunity for us to build good relationships with Ghanaian associations in other states.

Establishing a Ghanaians Youth Group

As the association grows, especially with a large part of our population in the teenage to the 20s age group, one area for us to develop into the future is a youth group with activities aimed at engaging young people.

Appointing an events organiser

A significant part of the association's work is organising events for the community. As we have gone through this year, the Management Committee has recognised a need to have an events officer on the Management Committee to spearhead events coordination.

Ghana Kente Group

It has been challenging getting someone to commit to teaching the group and getting the group functioning properly. It should also be one of the areas to concentrate on for the new Management Committee so we have good avenue for showcasing our culture.

Treasurer's report

It is my pleasure to present the association's financial statement for the 2011-12 term.

This has been an active year for us and while we had a net loss, we delivered three free events and subsidized the Kente Ball. We were able to deliver these events because of sponsorship funds from Ghanaian business owners and donations from community members.

Thank you to our members and those who continue to support the association financially.

Administration

Management Committee

The Management Committee met four times during this term to plan activities and discuss community issues.

Meetings

We held meetings with the Ghana High Commissioner in March. Management Committee members also attended meetings for the set up of African House and the Assembly of African Community Leaders meetings.

Association membership

We developed a new membership protocol, including setting up a new membership database and transferring all the membership records into electronic files.

One of the major challenges we faced 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.

As members, you get your money back through the free events we hold for the community such as the Boxing Day BBQ and Republic Day Picnic. We encourage everyone to contribute to the success of the association by becoming members or renewing your membership. See the Secretary to find out how.

From a financial point of view, our focus for the next term needs to be growing our membership revenue, which was limited this year.

We also need to develop our fundraising and sponsorship program to generate more funds into the association so we are in a position to deliver more activities and services at no or low cost to members.

Georgina Afoakwah

Financial statement

Balance brought forward	
Bank account balance, 3 Dec 2011	\$3,329.52
Petty cash	\$259.15
<i>Total opening balance</i>	\$3,588.67
Income	
2011 Xmas party fees and dues	\$758.45
Ghana Kente Ball ticket sales	\$9,550.00
Kente auction	\$602.00
Membership fees	\$210.00
Donations	\$1,000.00
Sponsorships	\$500.00
Kente Ball DVD sales	\$210.00
<i>Total Income</i>	\$12,830.45
Expenses	
2011 Xmas party expenses	\$521.00
Boxing Day BBQ	\$297.31
Ghana Kente Ball venue expenses	\$11,037.00
Kente Ball printing and centre pieces	\$219.00
Kente Ball DVD production	\$400.00
Republic Day Picnic catering	\$198.07
First aid and drinks for football assoc.	\$80.00
Website hosting	\$195.00
QACC membership fee	\$100.00
2012 AGM hall booking fee	\$100.00
Post office box renewal	\$149.63
Miscellaneous expenses	\$210.19
<i>Total expenses</i>	\$13,507.20
Net Loss for 2011-12 term	-\$676.75
Current financial position	\$2,911.92