

PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
Association des ONGs des Iles du Pacifique

November 2006

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Secretariat Briefs

PIFS Accreditation Policy Framework for NSAs

The final draft on the Policy on Consultative Status and Accreditation between PIFS and NSAs, was sent to all countries to comment. Only Australia met the first deadline (15th Nov) and PIFS has extended the deadline to 8th December. PIANGO has re-sent a copy of the PIFS draft policy to all its member NLUs, with the request to urgently write to their respective governments to respond to PIFS on the subject. For further information on the draft policy visit the PIFS website www.forumsec.org or the PIANGO website www.piangoo.org

Fiji Provincial Youth Forum, Namosi, 4-7 December 2006

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is organising the provincial youth forum at Naraiyawa village in the interior of Namosi, Fiji. The forum will hear the plans by the various government ministries on their planned youth programmes and also training programmes available on youth capacity building from USP and other providers. PIANGO will be presenting the Graduate Diploma in Not for Profit Management (GDP), which is regionally delivered through PIANGO by Unitech and funded by NZAID.

United Nations Pacific Framework for Action

The UN Pacific Office has proposed the United Nations Pacific Framework for Action to guide its work in the Pacific and is planning a consultation to discuss the document. The consultation is scheduled for mid-December in Apia. The UN recognises that civil society is a major partner in the implementation of the framework. The UN Pacific Framework has identified four major focus areas: equitable economic growth and poverty reduction; good governance and human rights; equitable social and protection services; and sustainable environmental management. The framework also identified gender equality as a cross cutting issue. For more information on the document contact UN Suva office. santiago.ayala@undp.org

3rd Workshop on Enhancing Policy Dialogue for Solutions to Squatter Settlements in Pacific States, Pacific Harbour, Fiji. 16-17th November 2006

The USP PIAS-DG organised the workshop to bring together Fiji Government ministries and statutory organisations involved in squatters and housing programmes and NGOs involved with squatters, to identify mechanisms and processes that can address the issue. The outcomes of

the two day workshop were agreement and commitment between the government and NGOs on mechanisms and processes for dialogue and also a better understanding between the two on working together for solutions.

Diplomacy and International Relations training programme

PIFS and the Embassy of France have supported USP to offer a 5 week training programme on Diplomacy and International Relations. The programme was launched by the Secretary General of PIFS HE Greg Urwin in early November at USP. The head of the programme is Dr Peter Dongi, a lawyer and former PNG Ambassador to the UN. Guest lectures will be delivered by staff of CROP agencies, Fiji government CEOs and from high commissions and embassies located in Fiji. Funds have been provided through PIFS by the government of France.

PANG now a registered entity

PANG, the Pacific Anti Globalisation Network, has been registered in Fiji and the Steering Committee includes ECREA of Fiji, World Council of Churches (WCC), Office in the Pacific, DAWN Pacific office and PIANGO. PANG will address issues on globalisation and economic justice in the region. Trade agreements will be a focus of PANG's work. Community education and advocacy will be the main activities of PANG. PIANGO chaired PANG until its legal registration. PANG is now chaired by Fei Tevi of the WCC Pacific Office.

Pacific Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS

The PIANGO Chair and Executive Director met with the representatives of NZAID, Commonwealth Foundation, SPC and Pacific AIDS Foundation to discuss possible involvement of PIANGO and PIANGO members in the CCM in addressing Initiative 6 of the Pacific Plan especially on monitoring functions. CCM is funded by Global Fund via SPC and addresses specific health issues of malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS. The Commonwealth Foundation posted that it is interested in supporting a regional organisation/network of people living with HIV/AIDS.

UNDP Pacific Office initiative for Conflict Prevention and Peace in the Pacific

UNDP Pacific Centre plans to put in place a web based portal on conflict prevention (CP) and peace building (PB) in the Pacific. The portal will hold information on all aspects of CP and PB and hopefully profiles of NGOs and institutions, networks and groups working in the area and the approaches and methodologies they use to address CP and PB. For further information on this initiative contact regina.bossert@undp.org

PIANGO Secretariat closed for Christmas & New Year

The PIANGO Secretariat's last working day for 2006 will be Wednesday 20th December. The office will reopen on Wednesday 17th January 2007. The December e-Update will be issued in mid-December.

Conference Room available for use

The Conference Room located at the PIANGO Secretariat in Nasese, Suva, is available for use by NGOs. The Conference Room will hold up to 15 people, is air conditioned with a whiteboard and has kitchen and bathroom facilities attached. For bookings, contact the PIANGO Secretariat on (679) 330 2963 or email piango@connect.com.fj

Pacific NGO Briefs

CIANGO News

1. Vereara Maeva, the President of CIANGO (Cook Islands Association of NGOs).has recently returned from one of the outer islands (Mauke) to deliver a van for the Disabilities, the Old Age and the Mental Health group. This was one of their NGO projects, funded by the European Union. There was a big celebration on the island of Mauke during the presentation.

2. Government has now given approval for one of its Crown Lands for CIANGO, to build a two-storey building to accommodate the CIANGO Secretariat and other well established national organisations (affiliated to CIANGO) e.g. National Council of Women, Women's Counseling Centre, C.Is. Workers Association, Girl Guides, Disability and many others.
3. On 5th December - International Volunteers Day, CIANGO will be celebrating the day with a major Radiothon Fund Raiser for the building of the Centre, an estimated approximate costing of \$350 - 400,000 (NZD). The whole Cook Islands will be involved in this (hopefully) and they will all volunteer towards this activity. CIANGO are hoping to get the building up by August 2007, in time for the National NGOs Triennial Forum and Handicrafts Exhibition.
4. CIANGO, as the official host, has just welcomed the new team of Global Volunteers (12 altogether) to Rarotonga, at a welcome dinner held at the Kiiikii Motel on 5th November 2006. It was a very warm and enjoyable reception.

DSE Network meeting

The DSE (Development Services Exchange, Solomon Islands) Network meeting held on the 9th of November was the last meeting for this year 2006. Members of DSE and development partners attended the meeting. Since it was the last meeting for this year, existing working groups gave brief reports according to their sectors. Disaster Stakeholders and Natural Resources and Rights Coalition did presentations of what they have been doing and what possible next steps are to be taken aboard into their group meetings. UNDP together with the National Planning Unit (SIG) and The Nature Conservancy who is the DSE representative to the Global Environmental Facility did presentations on the Small Grant Program for which UNDP is the executing body in the Solomon Islands.

DSE - Peace Education Manual Launched

A Peace Education Manual was launched on the 6th November, in partnership with UNICEF and Live and Learn Environment Education. The peace education module is being conducted with some teachers in Malaita and Guadalcanal. During the launching the Chief Executive Officer for Education thanked Live and Learn for involving teachers to be part of the facilitation of the Peace Education module in the Solomon Islands. The launching was attended by the Chief Executive Director of UNICEF Toshi Yuki Niwa, Government Representatives and other development partners.

Children's International Day

The Children's International Day was celebrated in Honiara, Solomon Islands, on the 9th November with the theme "My Wellbeing is your responsibility" – 'I have the right to protection'. There were activities organised for the day; creative art, song and writing competitions. Community Sector Program, Save the Children, Home Affairs, and UNIFEM provided funds for the event. The Children's International day was a success; with the turnout of many children supported by their parents and wide media coverage was made through the radio and the print media. Congratulations to all of you who made this Children International Day a success.

GDP Courses & Dates 2007

The GDP course timetable and the GDP brochure for 2007 are now available on the PIANGO website at <http://www.piango.org/pimi.htm>.

To find out more about the GDP, read the 2007 brochure and the 2007 timetable. To apply for a place on these courses, please contact PIANGO's Programme Officer - Capacity Building Bakanebo Tamaroa on bakanebo@piango.net or piango@connect.com.fj or your local country contact.

Pacific Donor News

Asian Development Bank (ADB): <http://www.adb.org/>

6 November 2006: ADB Expanding Rural Microfinance Opportunities in Vanuatu

ADB, in partnership with the National Bank of Vanuatu (NBV), has successfully pioneered a project to create sustainable, profitable rural micro-lending in Vanuatu, to be expanded in 2007. Two technical assistance grants amounting to US\$500,000 provided by ADB in 2002-2006 supported the expansion and scaling-up of rural microfinance services. The project shows that microfinance can be commercially viable using an approach that builds on local systems.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2006/10915-Vanuatu-microfinance/>

6 November 2006: ADB to Host Consultative Group Meeting for the Federated States of Micronesia

ADB hosted the fifth Consultative Group meeting for the Federated States of Micronesia at its headquarters in Manila. Consultative Group meetings are held to enable the international donor community to coordinate assistance to a developing country in line with the country's own national development priorities.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2006/10914-Micronesia-Consultative-Group-meeting/>

9 November 2006: Donors Stress Reforms Needed to Boost Results in Micronesia

Donors called for reforms to be stepped up in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to assure greater progress in future assistance programs. Development partners and officials from FSM met at ADB Headquarters in Manila to discuss ways to overcome constraints to achieving better results from development assistance.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2006/10939-Micronesia-reforms/>

13 November 2006: ADB Committed to Private Sector Development in the Pacific Islands

ADB reaffirmed its commitment to private sector development reform in the Pacific Islands at the Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2006/10965-Pacific-private-sector/>

20 November 2006: Partnership Delivering Services to Fight HIV/AIDS in The Pacific

ADB is engaged in a partnership that is delivering HIV/AIDS prevention services in 10 small Pacific developing countries. The partnership began a year ago with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the official executing agency for a project supported by an ADB grant of US\$8 million.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2006/11007-Pacific-HIV-AIDS/>

27 November 2006: US\$8.7 Million Grant to Boost Private Sector Development in the Pacific

An US\$8.7 million technical assistance (TA) grant co-financed by ADB and the Government of Australia will help promote private sector development in order to support long-term economic growth in Pacific developing member countries. Development progress in the Pacific region is not encouraging. Economic growth has averaged less than 1% annually over the past 30 years.

Further information at: <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2006/11050-australia-private-sector/default.asp>

AusAID: <http://www.ausaid.gov.au>

15 November 2006: Australian Leadership Awards Recipients Announced

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, announced that 179 scholars from 24 countries across the Asia Pacific region had been selected in the inaugural round of the Australian Leadership Awards (ALA).

Further information at:

http://www.aisaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=6147_8658_1747_420_7565

Commonwealth Foundation: <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com>

1 November 2006: Educate our Children - 75 million Commonwealth Children Need Access to Education

In response to a panel discussion on equality in education the Director of the Commonwealth Foundation has called for civil society and governments to work together to secure basic education for the 75 million children in the Commonwealth who have no access to schooling.

Further information at:

http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=268&cat_id=137

6 November 2006: Commonwealth Photographic Awards

The Commonwealth Press Union is now inviting entries for the 2006/7 Photoawards. Sponsored by the Commonwealth Foundation, the awards are open to any resident of a Commonwealth country over the age of 18. The overall theme for the Awards this year is 'Achievement'.

Further information at:

http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=270&cat_id=138

14 November 2006: Call for CPF and CHOGM 2007 to adopt strong action plans on climate change

During the recent international climate change workshop held in Uganda, Dr Mark Collins, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation urged civil society to make; "climate change a top priority in their programmes."

Further information at:

http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=274&cat_id=44

17 November 2006: Commonwealth calls for ideas to further ICT development - proposals to be submitted before 5 January 2007

The Commonwealth Secretariat is inviting governments, NGOs and academic institutions to submit project proposals that can help bridge the digital divide.

Further information at:

http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/news/detail.cfm?id=277&cat_id=45

NZAID: <http://www.nzaid.govt.nz>

November 2006: NewZAID No. 30

NewZAID updates you in brief on key issues and events on the NZAID agenda e.g. New seasonal work scheme

Further information at: <http://enews.nzaid.govt.nz/index.php?id=170>

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): <http://www.undp.org>

9 November 2006: World water and sanitation crisis urgently needs a Global Action Plan

A Global Action Plan under G8 leadership is urgently needed to resolve a growing water and sanitation crisis that causes nearly two million child deaths every year, says the recently released 2006 Human Development Report.

Further information at: <http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/november-2006/hdr-water-20061109.en>

14 November 2006: United Nations Expands its Presence in the Pacific

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Executive Committee agencies have agreed to jointly expand the presence of the UN in the Pacific. The joint plan has been endorsed by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the decision was reached after a submission was made on behalf of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau and Tuvalu and was later joined by the Federated States of Micronesia.

Further information at: <http://www.undp.org.fj/>

14 November 2006: Pacific Launch of the 2006 Human Development Report

The UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Dr Hafiz Pasha who was in the country for a series of UNDP meetings, officially launched the 2006 Human Development Report in the Pacific.

Further information at: <http://www.undp.org.fj/>

27 November 2006: Kemal Dervis Speech: UN General Assembly Debate on the MDGs

Together you and the leaders of your countries agreed on a renewed framework for action in support of development as the world entered the 21st century. Without doubt, the internationally agreed Millennium Declaration and the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals have made an unprecedented contribution to focusing attention and galvanizing global action around one of the greatest challenges of our time.

Further information at: <http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/november-2006/statement-dervis-GA-20061127.en>

Other News

Islands Business: <http://www.islandsbusiness.com>

November issue out now, including Samoa's PM talks, Storm brewing in Tuvalu, and a Symbolic victory for small states at the WTO

Further information at: http://www.islandsbusiness.com/islands_business/

Oxfam International: <http://www.oxfam.org>

Oxfam International Youth Partnerships 2007-2010

Oxfam International is seeking 300 young people (18-25) who are working for change with their communities all around the world. If selected, they will be part of a global network and three year program of learning and action facilitated by Oxfam.

Further Information at: <http://www.iyp.oxfam.org:80/>

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre: <http://www.pcrc.org.fj>

14 November 2006: New Treaty Undermines Security of West Papuans

The Pacific Concerns Resource Centre expresses alarm and disgust at recent news that Australia has signed a new Security Treaty with Indonesia. PCRC calls on Australia to sincerely rethink the consequence this Treaty will have on indigenous Papuans.

Further information at:

<http://www.pcrc.org.fj/index.cfm?go=main.resources&cmd=forumview&cbegin=158&uid=press2006&catuuid=EA063164-9285-85BA-348D3D691EF2CE1F&cid=156>

17 November 2006: Give us Peace, Not Weapons of War - PCRC tells US

PCRC has labeled as an "extreme waste of financial resources" plans by the US military to spend up to \$15 billion over the next decade, to expand its military presence on Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

Further information at:

<http://www.pcrc.org.fj/index.cfm?go=main.resources&cmd=forumview&cbegin=158&uid=press2006&catuuid=EA063164-9285-85BA-348D3D691EF2CE1F&cid=157>

17 November 2006: Quick Political and Economic Reforms Now

PCRC is requesting the Tonga Prime Minister and Cabinet to continue to find long-lasting solutions of resolving the long awaited calls for more political reforms in Tonga.

Further information at:

<http://www.pcrc.org.fj/index.cfm?go=main.resources&cmd=forumview&cbegin=158&uid=press2006&catuuid=EA063164-9285-85BA-348D3D691EF2CE1F&cid=158>

Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC): <http://www.sopac.org>

15 November 2006: Australian Parliamentary Delegation visits SOPAC

Members of an Australian Federal Parliamentary Delegation visited the Suva-based Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) in Nabua to discuss important regional energy initiatives with SOPAC energy experts. The visit to SOPAC was part of the delegation's 12-day Pacific tour to Fiji, Cook Islands and New Zealand to see Australian Government (AusAID) funded aid projects and conduct meetings with key regional and government organisations.

Further information at: http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=44

Pacific Regional Economic Integration Programme (PACREIP):

<http://www.pacreip.org>

17 November 2006: PICS call for Political Intervention in EPA Negotiations

Trade Ministers from Pacific ACP (PACP) counties have agreed on the need to intensify political interventions in the negotiating process of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European union (EU) as the deadline for the conclusion of negotiations approaches.

Further information at: <http://www.pacreip.org/index.php?id=338>

Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP): <http://www.sprep.org>

1 November 2006: Rubbish is a Resource! pdf now available

The world is being swamped by mountains of rubbish, it seems. This is a problem everywhere, but no more so than in the small islands nations of the Pacific. The challenge is to deal with all this rubbish, and the new "Waste Resource Kit for the Pacific Islands" aims to help by showing how to extract valuable resources from the waste stream.

Further information at: http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=321

17 November 2006: Become a Marine Turtle Ambassador

The 2006 Pacific Year of the Sea Turtle campaign is seeking Ambassadors to spread the message of marine turtle conservation throughout communities in the Pacific Island region.

Further information at: http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=323

22 November 2006: "Island Life" publication now available

"Island Life - Celebrating Pacific Islands Biodiversity: Case Studies of Island Life" is the full title of a new SPREP publication containing a good overview of issues relevant to the island Biodiversity Programme of Work. The publication can be downloaded from the website.

Further information at: http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=324

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC): <http://www.spc.int>

14 November 2006: Birth of Human Development Programme start of new era for SPC

A reorganisation at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community has led to the birth of a new programme which aims to deliver more effective services to all Pacific people - whether in the smallest villages or the biggest towns.

Further information at: http://www.spc.int/AC/crga2006_PR_HDP.htm

15 November 2006: Pacific Association of Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Stakeholders in the Pacific TVET sector ended their meeting in Suva feeling positive about the direction they had chosen for the future of their Secretariat, based with SPC. The agenda included determining a strategic future for the sector, as well as coming to an agreement with SPC on the need to build the capacity of Pacific people through skills development.

Further information at: http://www.spc.int/AC/art_tvete.htm

16 November 2006: Solomon Islands statistical services revitalised

"It is my pleasure to inform the Committee of the success story of the 18 month statistics capacity building project implemented by SPC that has allowed the Solomon Islands National Statistical Services to be revitalised" announced Mr Luma Darcy, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Solomon Islands.

Further information at: http://www.spc.int/AC/crga2006_PR_Day4_Stats.htm

20 November 2006: Pacific Population updates on SPC website

SPC's 2006, 2010, 2015 Pacific Island countries and territories population numbers updates are now available on the website, with some details by sex and age-groups, the latest Total Fertility Rates, etc.

Further information at: <http://www.spc.int:80/demog/en>

UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org>

UNICEF India internship programme (4 June - 10 August 2007) - applications close 31 December 2006

UNICEF India Country Office invites applications for a full-time India Internship programme from 4 June to 10 August 2007, to encourage young students and scholars from around the world engaging in development issues pertaining to India's children and women.

Further information at http://www.unicef.org/india/media_2523.htm

University of the South Pacific (USP): <http://www.usp.ac.fj>

27 November 2006: USP researcher working with MAGNT Expert to Help Identify South Pacific Fish Species

A MAGNT world expert will help to identify an unknown tropical fish species from the South Pacific as part of a conservation survey of the Solomon Islands by Wetlands International and University of the South Pacific in Suva.

Further information at: <http://www.usp.ac.fj/news/story.php?id=166>

World Wildlife Fund (WWF): <http://www.wwfpacific.org.fj>

1 November 2006: Huge cost of climate change means climate talks must speed up

The Stern Review, the UK government's expert report on the economics of climate change, adds to the urgency of the recent UN climate change talks in Nairobi. The review, presented by UK Treasury Minister Gordon Brown and the lead author, former World Bank chief economist Sir Nicholas Stern, makes a clear economic case for immediate action against climate change.

Further information at:

http://www.wwfpacific.org/fj/current/news/press_releases/climate/06_11_stern_rev.cfm

13 November 2006: European Community pulls the rug on South Pacific negotiations

A number of fishing nations led by the European Community refused to agree to any responsible fishing management measures in the South Pacific Ocean as the negotiations associated with the interim management of the high seas in the region foundered.

Further information at: <http://www.wwf.org.au/news/european-community-pulls-the-rug-on-south-pacific-negotiations/>

Calendar of Meetings & Activities

December		
Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
3-9	SPREP	Micronesia Challenge Regional Meeting, Koror, Palau
4-8	SPREP	GEF Council Meeting, Washington DC, USA
11-15	SPREP	FSM draft NIP finalisation, Yap, Micronesia
20-21	WTO	WTO General Council

2007		
Date	Body	Meeting / Activity
March-April	WTO	ILO Forum on Decent work for a Fair Globalisation
29 May – 14 June	WTO	96 th Session of the International Labour Conference

Note:

Further information is available at the following websites:

ADB - <http://www.adb.org/News/calendar.asp>

Forum Secretariat - <http://www.forumsec.org/fj/> -> Events

Pacific Plan - <http://pacificplan.org/tiki-page.php?pageName=Yearly+Calendar>

SOPAC - <http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tiki-index.php?page=Calendar+of+Events+2006>

SPREP - <http://www.sprep.org/event/Events/Events-2006last.pdf>

WTO - http://wto.org/english/news_e/events_e/events_e.htm

Suggestions / Feedback

Your suggestions for future articles are welcome, as well as any feedback on recent articles.

The closing date for article submissions for the December e-Update is Friday 15th December 2006. Article submissions should be brief and text only. Please email to piango@connect.com.fj

About PIANGO

The Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) is a regional network of NGO focal points or coordinating bodies known as National Liaison Units (NLUs) based in 21 Pacific Island countries and territories.

PIANGO was formally established in 1991 to assist NGOs in the Pacific to initiate action, give voice to their concerns and work collaboratively with other development actors for just and sustainable human development. PIANGO's primary role is to be a catalyst for collective action, to facilitate and support coalitions and alliances on issues of common concern, and to strengthen the influence and impact of NGO efforts in the region.

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National Members

Member contact details can be found on the PIANGO website at www.piango.org

Aotearoa / NZ - ANGOA
Australia - ACFID
Cook Islands - CIANGO
Fiji - FCOSS
Kiribati - KANGO
Micronesia (FSM) - FANGO
Nauru - NIANGO
PNG (interim) - MNCL
Samoa - SUNGO
Solomon Islands - DSE
Tahiti - Hiti Tau
Tonga - CSFT
Tuvalu - TANGO
Vanuatu - VANGO

Interim members

Bougainville - Nikana Ma'atara
East Timor - CSCBF
Guam - Sanctuary Inc
Palau - PCAA
Wallis & Futuna - ASCV
West Papua - West Papua

Observers

American Samoa
Hawaii
Marshall Islands

Subscription Information

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e-Update in French language

The e-Update is also available in French. Please advise us if you would like to receive the e-Update in French by sending an email to piango@connect.com.fj

Privacy Policy

This newsletter will be used to inform you of new and upcoming events and postings related to PIANGO and its activities. You will receive an e-newsletter about once every month and the quarterly PIANGO Link four times a year. Your information will not be sold, rented or leased to a third party. You can remove your name from the list at any time by following the instructions above.

Archive

Archived and current versions of e-Updates are available from the website at www.piango.org