

NIOGA Area Report 2021

This has not been a good year for NIOGA. Despite efforts to rebuild the area there has been little or no impetus in terms of membership engagement for a variety of reasons. It is clear the pandemic has not assisted in this process, and events that were suggested or planned were cancelled.

Both Gerry Brennan (Secretary) and myself have been involved in a significant large scale project that has relevance to OGA activities. The details of this project will be announced shortly and at the funders stipulation is embargoed until they make a statement to the press.

Both myself and Gerry feel this project is going to take up a significant amount of time and it is with regret that we are tendering our resignation.

I have had discussions with Patrick (President) as well as Adrian Spence (President DBOGA) and Darryl Hughes (Secretary DBOGA) and I am proposing the following.

The next issue of Gaffer's Log contain an article providing an up to date account of the situation as it pertains to NIOGA and inviting existing NIOGA members to re-engage with the Area and to fill the places of President and Secretary.

This would be the preferred option, but it is my view this is unlikely to occur if the membership level of engagement during the past three years is any indication of interest. I am prepared to be surprised.

Should NIOGA not be reinvigorated, it may be the case that DBOGA might be interested in the transfer of members and assets. This of course would be a matter for DBOGA, its officers, committee and membership and is not something NIOGA can comment on as to outcome. I have alerted Adrian and Darryl to this proposal.

Should these two proposals not proceed then it would be my view that NIOGA be wound up and the assets be transferred to OGA.

It is with regret that I have to write this report and would welcome any other suggestions as to a way forward.

Pat Conway