

## President's Monthly Report – July 2008

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July 08 was a relatively quiet month for the Chamber. Besides the NAIDOC Business Breakfast and the NAIDOC Family Day which I included in the June 08 report, most of the activity was internal for management and staff.

A significant development was the confirmation of a new Corporate Sponsor, Distinctive Ceilings Pty Ltd which is a Perth based company that supplies plasterboard and water proofing solutions in the domestic and commercial market. Distinctive's Manager Paul Sultana is a close friend who has located an arm of his operations in Brisbane. Paul's brother, Dennis manages the Queensland business and already have a number of Indigenous people on staff. The company is very keen to break into the Queensland market and sees their support for our Chamber as one of a number of strategies to achieve this. I encourage members to keep Distinctive Ceilings Pty Ltd in mind to recommend their services to your contacts, as you would do for all our Corporate Sponsors.

August 19<sup>th</sup> is the date set for the Chamber's next "Networking @ Night" event hosted by Wayne Denning's Carbon Media and Events Pty Ltd. The event will take place at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Kelvin Grove campus off Kelvin Grove Road. Be sure to promote this event to your networks and get behind these very popular nights.

On a more sombre note, August will see the closing down of the Blak Business, Smart Business Hub. A long time member of the Chamber and a very prominent organisation in supporting and assisting Indigenous business growth in South East Queensland will close it's doors much to the disappointment of our community. John Armstrong and staff have diligently worked with many Indigenous clients in business or those wanting to start a business and certainly building the capacity of those groups to continue to grow or enter into the local business community. On behalf of the Chamber, I would like to thank John and his crew for their support and wish them good health and all the best for their futures. We are sure to cross paths again.

*"I went to the brink many times. A couple of times I thought "I'm gone.. This is it." But then you would just keep working. I think if you're close to the brink and just make sure that you work twice as hard and put twice as much effort into everything and the people around you and everything, you should come through."*

*Gerry Harvey of Harvey Norman*

A major challenge for the Chamber is a financial one. As you all know our current income is derived from Membership Fees, Corporate Sponsors, our events and the sale of Neil Willmetts' publication "How to start a successful Aboriginal business in Australia." This alone will not sustain our level of spending, in particular supporting our Secretariat, which has become an integral part of our operations. Justin Power is nearing the completion of his traineeship and as much as we would like to retain his services, this will become more and more difficult into the future. I urgently encourage members to get involved in our fund raising efforts. Either by attending our much talked about events, inviting guests, recommending membership to your colleagues and/or potential Corporate Sponsors. If you have a great fund raising idea we would like to hear from you.

A number of Government project based funded programs provide some options for serious consideration by our Management Committee. Though if you have expertise in submission writing, policy writing, business planning, marketing etc please give me a call on 0413 970 584 or Justin Power on 3404 3934.

## **Conclusion**

A big welcome to new members:

- Gilimbaa – David Williams;
- Outpost Consulting – Katy O’Callaghan; and
- Mookin Bibonmari Aboriginal Tours – Denise Coghill

We all look forward to meeting and working with each of you in the near future.

Thank you, congratulations and I look forward to growing our success, together.

**Charlie Jia**

**SEQICC President**