

## President's Monthly Report – October 2008

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*"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it."*

*William Arthur Ward*

I write my report as Barak Obama becomes the first ever African-American President of the United States of America. I am sure a lot of us thought we would not witness this achievement in our lifetime. Take a minute to reflect on this and you will realise the enormity of this historical event.

This is not only a win for Barak, his followers and America but also renewed hope that our dream of an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Prime Minister is not just "pie in the sky" stuff but a real possibility built on the good will and passion of many Australians and reconciliation.

My report this month is slightly overshadowed by all of this, though nevertheless "from little steps, big things grow". (Paul Kelly).

October 2008 is the month we got back on track with a number of key meetings, important developments and a return of our "Networking @ Night" events that have proven very popular with members, supporters and guests of the Chamber.

John Armstrong is taken up his role with the Chamber, working from the office every Thursday to provide:

- Administration support;
- Submission writing;
- Membership management; and
- Event management.

John presented the first draft of the DEEWR EIEI proposal for funding to provide mentoring, business development and also to set up a young entrepreneurs program. This was met with the SEQICC Management Committees approval and forwarded onto DEEWR (Canberra).

I have since met with Christine Halliwell of DEEWR (Brisbane) to discuss the proposal and the second draft is ready for our October Management Committee meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

The SEQICC October 2008 "Networking @ Night" Event was well attended with over 30 members and guests enjoying inspirational presentations by Ms Bridget Garay (Footsteps Gallery) and Mr Grant Paulson (Reconciliation Australia). The event took place at Footsteps Gallery which proved to be a very popular choice of venue and certainly added to the cultural significance of the occasion. A big thank you to John Armstrong for leading the management of the event as well as our event sponsors Kurrajong Aboriginal Products and Footsteps Gallery.

Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE approached the Chamber for our support to their proposal seeking funds to establish an Indigenous Business Mentoring program. The Management Committee members agreed to support this proposal "in principle".

The SEQICC Vice President, Nola Turner-Jensen is coordinating the Southbank Parklands Lifestyle Markets Stall sponsored by South Bank Corporation. This an opportunity for our members who would like promote and sell their goods and services at Brisbane's premier market. These markets occur every Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. A great opportunity not to be missed.

## **Conclusion**

A big welcome to new members:

- Skill Centred Queensland – Kerry O'Leary
- Go Fair Trading - Sally Oulton
- New Australia Consulting - Darren Jones

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**