

President's Monthly Report – November & December 2008

"I've failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed."

Michael Jordan

Before I get into my report, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Management Committee for their ongoing support and contributions to the Chamber this year. Each of you have been a source of my inspiration and I whole heartedly appreciate your professionalism, expertise and of course, your kind and valued friendship.

I must also thank on behalf of the Management Committee, all our members and supporters who have made the most our relationship by involving themselves with the Chamber by either attending events and/or recommending our Chamber, its members and our website. I am fairly confident that this relationship has netted you all, a new contact and possibly some business or referrals.

This time last year we had about 55 members, though this has now nearing 80 members for the year. We have had the support of 6 very generous Corporate Sponsors and it is pleasing to see a number of members taking up the opportunity to become event sponsors this year. All of this has aided our success in 2008.

My report will cover Chamber activities over the months of November and December 2008 as a wrap up to the year.

November 2008

The highlight of November 2008 was our 2nd Anniversary Celebrations held at the Footsteps Gallery in the city. Approximately 70 members and guests enjoyed a very entertaining evening. Our guest performer Georgia Corowa was fantastic as were inpromtu performances by Michael Connolly and David Williams. Thanks and congratulations to members of the organising committee. John Armstrong and Nola Turner's work behind the scenes was terrific and I must say a big thank you to Neil Willmet and Allinta Rose for their support of the event as sponsors.

Also our appreciation goes out to all of the businesses and organisations who donated the prizes on the night and congratulations to all of the prize winners.

Other important developments/activities in November were:

- the Emerging Indigenous Entrepreneurs Initiative (EIEI) proposal through John Armstrong and Nola Turner Jensen's work
- Meeting with DEEWR to discuss the EIEI Proposal
- the Queensland Government Environmental Protection Agency Carbon Dieting Program submission by John Armstrong
- attendance at the SCIPS final meeting
- IBA's representation at the SEQICC November Management Committee meeting
- Meetings with Virgin Blue, Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE and the Australian Catholic University

The interest of a number prominent businesses/organisations represents an acknowledgement of the work that the Chamber is now involved in. Although it may not seem substantial, the Chamber's consistent approach to bringing Indigenous and non Indigenous business together is being recognised as we continue to position ourselves in South East Queensland's business community.

December 2008

The Chamber partnered with a number of local Chambers and business groups to co-host the Combined Networking function held at Brookwater Golf Club on the 10th December. I was joined at the function by SEQICC member Melanie Lavell-Maloney of Contact First Pty Ltd and 150 other business people from around South East Queensland. I had the opportunity to speak at this event promoting our Chamber, its members and also sought the interest of other chambers to work together with events in 2008.

Conclusion

Our last SEQICC Management Committee meeting takes place on the 18th December.

Although I will reiterate this final acknowledgement at this meeting, I feel that it is important to document my appreciation to John Armstrong whose enormous contribution will ensure the Chamber's future operations and success. John had offered his time to man our secretariat once a week where he has tirelessly prepared a number of funding submissions to State and Australian Governments. His attention to detail and commitment to the Chamber is unquestionable. Thank you John Armstrong.

A big welcome to all our new members. We wish all our members a very enjoyable Festive Season, a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2009.

We all look forward to meeting and working with each of you in the New Year.

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

Charlie Jia

SEQICC President