

## President's Monthly Report – January 2009

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*"In a moment of decision,  
the best thing you can do is the right thing to do.  
The worst thing you can do is nothing."*

*Theodore Roosevelt*

2009 and we have an interesting year ahead of us. Already John Armstrong's work has produced a very good project which will raise awareness of the need for businesses to reduce carbon emissions and take up environmental practices. The funds for this project were kindly approved by the Queensland Government's Environmental Protection Agency. We are very excited to work with the Agency and look forward to members support throughout the year.

Negotiations are ongoing with the Australian Government's Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to bolster our administration and strengthen the chamber's foundations.

John has had meetings with Indigenous Community Volunteers to discuss potential programs that will be delivered in partnership with our Chamber. A number of other organisations have expressed a similar interest in working with the Chamber and further meetings in the near future will begin to consolidate this interest.

### Future Events

A calendar of events will be developed by the Management Committee for the Chamber and its members. I anticipate this will be a combination of Networking @ Night events and other business gatherings such as our NAIDOC Business Breakfast, Reconciliation Forum Trade Shows, etc. We will also look into new opportunities for our members to get together in a formal and/or informal environment to continue to build their businesses.

The 6<sup>th</sup> World Chambers Congress takes place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 3 – 5 June 2009 and I will be seeking the interest of members to form a trade delegation to represent our Chamber at this world event. There is also an opportunity to enter our Chamber into the World Chambers Competition if there is support.

NAIDOC 2009 will come to Brisbane this year between 5 – 12 July and our Chamber will need to position itself to participate in a meaningful way.

Brisbane also turns 150 this year and a whole host of celebrations are planned throughout the year. This will be another great opportunity to participate and build relationships with Brisbane's business community.

The Victorian Government and the Koori Business Network (KBN) is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indigenous Economic Development Conference "Growing Our Future" which our members are invited to. I have received an invitation to represent our Chamber at the Conference. This conference will take place on 27 – 29 May 2009.

On a more sombre note, I would like to offer our best wishes and prayers to the families and friends who have lost loved ones and their homes in the devastating bush fires in Victoria. I will be proposing that the Chamber conducts a fundraising exercise to contribute much needed assistance to those in need during these very difficult times.

***Conclusion***

A big welcome to all our new members. We wish all our members a very 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**