

President's Monthly Report – March 2009

"Even a mistake may turn out to be the one thing necessary to a worthwhile achievement."

Henry Ford

Negotiations are still ongoing with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations regarding our proposal to strengthen the Chamber's operations with funds to employ a Business Development Manager. We anticipate that this process will be nearing a resolution in the near future. I am in the process of meeting with Queensland Government officials regarding support for this initiative as well.

Dates for our coming events will be finalised at the April 09 Management Committee Meeting prior to the AGM which is being called for the 22nd April 2009. John Armstrong has prepared the notices, nomination and proxy forms as well as monitoring the electoral process.

Allinta Rose has indicated that she will not be renominating for a position on the committee due to her business' increased workload and success. Allinta's involvement is acknowledged and we wish her all the best with her future endeavours and are assured of her continued support for the Chamber.

The Carbon Dieting Program is soon to commence once the funds are received from the Environmental Protection Agency. We are very excited about this program and our contribution to reducing household carbon emissions. We look forward to our member's support and involvement with this initiative.

The Chamber has been approached by a number of organisations to partner in various projects and opportunities currently out for tender. I am working with Management Committee members to negotiate these opportunities with the best interest of the Chamber, in mind.

Justin Power who we employed as a trainee has been nominated by the Chamber into the Regional Queensland Training Awards. Congratulations to Justin on his nomination and we hope to hear more about his bid.

Future Events

Our first Networking @ Night Event coincides with the 2009 AGM to be held at Footsteps Gallery at Ann Street in the City on 22nd April. This is a great opportunity for members and guests to meet the elected committee.

We are also event managing the Official Launch of Neil Willmetts' first publication "How to start a successful Aboriginal Business in Australia" on the 15th May 2009. Details of this launch will be sent out in the near future.

As I reported in my February report, I will be attending the 6th World Chambers Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 3 – 5 June 2009. This will be a terrific opportunity to develop international relationships and business networks abroad. I am encouraging members who are interested in attending this event to contact myself or John Armstrong as we are keen to confirm the Chamber's

delegation and commence negotiating travel, accommodation and Congress registrations.

Neil Willmet, Allinta Rose and I will be attending the 2nd Indigenous Economic Development Conference in Melbourne hosted by the Koori Business Network at the end of May. This conference offers Indigenous business really good rates to host a trade booth over 3 days not only to promote but also to sell their goods and services. A Canadian Indigenous Chamber delegation will be attending and keen to facilitate business matching with our Indigenous businesses. Also a great opportunity. Check out the SEQICC website for details of this conference.

Conclusion

The AGM on the 22nd April is a great opportunity for members to be involved in the strategic direction of our Chamber. I am aware that a number of the current committee members will not be continuing due to increase business obligations. Their involvement has been enormous and we are very appreciative of their efforts and commitment to the Chamber.

I encourage our financial member's who are interested in nominating to speak with current management committee members about their experience. Please don't hesitate contacting any of us.

For our AGM to go ahead, I invite all members to attend this important event and please stay on for a exciting "Networking @ Night" experience. If you are not able to attend then please nominate your proxy (proxy form on our website, follow the links) and return this to our returning officer, John Armstrong.

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

Charlie Jia

SEQICC President