

## President's Monthly Report – April 2009

---

*"History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon."*

*Napoleon Bonaparte*

Well, congratulations and welcome to all elected (new and old) Management Committee Members. The Chamber's Annual General Meeting attracted a good crowd of members and guests. I must thank everyone involved in the proceedings and a big thank you to John Armstrong for his work leading up to the AGM.

I was saddened by the recent resignation of long serving Founding Member, Nola Turner Jensen, from the newly elected Management Committee. Nola has contributed a great deal of time and effort into the establishment of our Chamber as well as the past two years of operation. Professionally and personally, Nola's friendship and support as my Deputy has kept myself and members focussed on the challenges ahead and her leadership has been inspirational. I am heartened that Nola will remain a member of the Chamber and wish her all the best with the continued success and growth of her business – Kurrajong Aboriginal Products.

I must also thank wholeheartedly the efforts, support and commitment of the other past Management Committee members – Kris McCue, Marshall Foster, Allinta Rose and Carol Benson - who have stood down for 2009.

Our new Management Committee members – Leesa Watego, David Williams, Larry Budd and Wayne Denning – joins myself, Neil Willmet, Helen Cave and John Armstrong to take the Chamber to new heights and challenges of 2009. The first meeting of the new Management Committee is scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

After the AGM, the Networking @ Night Event sponsored by Karma Lifestyles provided members and guests with the opportunity meet the new members and discuss our future activities. We attracted a number of new memberships on the night and must thank the Bleeding Heart Gallery for the great venue and catering for this event.

Besides these events, it was business as usual for the Chamber. We are still in the mix for Australian Government support which I will personally head this month as well as commence negotiations with the Queensland Government.

The Carbon Dieting Program is underway and we are very exciting about this program. Members will be informed of coming events and activities. We look forward to your support and involvement with this initiative.

Opportune Network as partnered with the Chamber in a bid to win a position on the Australian Government's Panel for Indigenous employment and business development.

Edgware has also partnered with the Chamber to bid for the Australian Government's Adult Learners' Week 2009 Grant Funding. This project is to design and develop a – a free online networking service – accessible through a Web portal or telephone – for Indigenous entrepreneurs and business people.

I had the opportunity to attend a meeting in Adelaide convened by Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) that will see the void in Indigenous Business leadership at a national level be filled by the establishment of Indigenous Business Council of Australia (IBCA). This was an important event which our Chamber (SEQICC) will play a significant role. I have accepted on behalf of the SEQICC, a Director's position on the IBCA Board which will place our Chamber and its members in an enviable position on advising local, regional, national and international policy direction for Indigenous business in Australia. Keep on eye on this space.

### ***Conclusion***

Well, we are all set for a year of opportunity and growth for the Chamber. We have the chance to build onto the success of previous years to now position our Chamber and its members into South East Queensland business landscape. There will be a number of challenges that will test us as well as opportunities we will need to grasp. As a chamber, I believe our strength is with our members and business leaders.

Thank you again for your continued faith in my leadership, congratulations and I look forward to growing our success, together.

**Charlie Jia**

**SEQICC President**