

President's Monthly Report – April 2008

"Satisfaction does not come with achievement, but with effort. Full effort is full victory." Mahatma Gandhi

With the new Management Committee meeting for the first time in April, it was a time to take a big deep breath, reflect on the pluses and minuses of the year that was, then move forward into a promising twelve (12) months ahead.

I must say the first meeting was a very productive and engaging event with a number of very positive and stimulating contributions from new and old members. Topics ranging from membership drives to potential sponsors and the Chambers Indigenous Business Conference/Expo later on this year has generated some great expectations with our enthusiasm levels riding high.

A working party meeting was then convened a week later to get all our thoughts, ideas and expectations out on paper to begin planning this exciting event. We will no doubt push forward over the coming months on the Conference/Expo.

A financial decision was made to reduce Christine Kerr's hours to event manage six (6) regional events sponsored by the Area Consultative Committee networks in SEQ, prior to 30 June 2008.

This has given the Chamber some breathing space in terms of budget though will mean that a number of us will have to pick up the slack on some operational tasks vacated by Christine. In particular, supporting our trainee Justin Power who continues to provide great service to the Chamber. He is also making huge inroads into his study. Well done JP.

Our Treasurer, Neil Willmetts participated at the Australian Government's 2020 Summit during the month and pushed the importance of knowing and understanding Indigenous Business, what it looks like nationally and where it can go in the future.

What I understand is the Government is taking a lot of interest in this discussion and I must congratulate Neil on his input so far. I am sure we will be hearing a lot more and seeing a lot more done in the area of Indigenous Business.

Events

I attended a number of events/meetings in April including:

- Meeting – Glenda Viner for the South Bank Corporation re ongoing SEQICC sponsorship opportunities
- KBN Victorian Indigenous Chamber of Commerce meeting 11th April 2008
- SEQICC Management Committee Meeting 16th April 2008
- SEQICC Business Conference/Expo Working Group Meeting 24th April 2008
- Meeting – Director of Southbank Institute of Technology re SEQICC Conference Expo.

Our Chamber will be hosting the SEQICC Indigenous Trade Show in conjunction with the Premier's Reconciliation Business Forum on the 29th May at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Conclusion

A big welcome to new members:

- Wayne Denning from Carbon Media Event Pty Ltd
- Syl Johns from the Australian Indigenous Boxing Company; and
- Paul and Nicole Hodgson from Sustainnovation.

We all look forward to meeting and working with each of you in the near future.

In closing, I must thank Nola Turner for her support and contribution to this Chamber over the past six (6) months. Nola travelled with me down to Melbourne to address the Koori Business Network's forum to establish the Victorian Indigenous Chamber of Commerce. Nola has also taken the lead on the planning of the Conference/Expo and a number of other events the Chamber is currently working on.

It is encouraging to see that her involvement and enthusiasm is infectious with members of the management commitment putting their hands up to getting involved.

So thanks Nola and thank you members for making the SEQICC your Chamber.

Charlie Jia

SEQICC President