

President's Monthly Report – May 2008

"Let us all take more responsibility, not only for ourselves and our families but for our communities and our country."

Bill Clinton

First of all, on behalf of the SEQICC, congratulations to all Indigenous finalists and award winners of the 2008 Premier's Reconciliation Awards. Of special mention are current and past SEQICC Indigenous members:

- Brisbane Indigenous Media Association Inc (operating as 98.9fm) – Community Organisation **Award Winner**
- Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts – Community Organisation **Highly Commended Award**
- Tom Kirk Indigenous Consultants – Established Business **Highly Commended Award**

Congratulations also to Kevin O'Brien Architects – Emerging Business Award **Finalist**.

Well done everyone on your fantastic achievements. This great recognition of successful Indigenous Business and their contribution to reconciliation is well deserved.

I would also like to thank the SEQICC businesses who took part in the Indigenous Trade Show at the Reconciliation Business Forum. Over 200 Forum participants had the pleasure of meeting these business owners, finding out more about their products and services and making key contacts for future reference and business. The Trade Show and your participation really added another dimension to the Forum which was lacking in previous years.

The month commenced with the Coolamon Program managed by the Brisbane City Council. This program consisted of a series of celebrations with members of Brisbane's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. I had the opportunity to present during the Black Business Day along with fellow members, John Armstrong (Blak Business Smart Business Hub) and Allinta Rose (Deadly Life and Business Solutions Pty Ltd).

Our Employment Assistance program has resulted in one very positive employment outcome. Congratulations to Shikaya Hanson who has secured work with Learning Network Queensland directly after completing the program.

I had the pleasure of representing the SEQICC at the Australian Indigenous Games Foundation Conference in Townsville. The conference was to establish the Foundation which I was elected onto the interim Board. More development work and exciting news to come about this very positive initiative.

The Chamber was well represented by members, staff and Corporate Sponsors at the Lord Mayor's Multicultural Business Dinner. Fantastic to have a presence and we should ensure that we continue to participate in future key business events. Let's keep "in front of mind".

Events

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

- Presentation – Coolamon Program, Brisbane City Council 2nd May 2008
- Meeting – Christine Kerr regarding Event Management 7th May 2008
- SEQICC Management Committee Meeting 8th May 2008

- Conference – Australian Indigenous Games Foundation 17th May 2008
- Forum – 2008 Reconciliation Business Forum & SEQICC Indigenous Trade Show 29th May 2008
- Business Dinner – Lord Mayor’s Multicultural Business Dinner

Conclusion

A big welcome to new members:

- Jane Delaney John
- Malcolm Cruikshanks from Electro-Air Services; and the
- BCITF (Queensland)

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

Great news with South Bank Corporation’s recommitment to continue as a Corporate Sponsor. The Corporation has generously provided a combination of financial and inkind support. Of interest to members is the opportunity to market their goods at the Visitor Information Centre in the Parklands as well as access to a weekend stall at Brisbane’s premier Lifestyles Market, once a month.

We still have a body of work to do for our future activities, in particular the prospect of the Queensland Indigenous Business Conference taking place later in the year is very exciting.

I must thank and congratulate Justin Power our Administration Trainee for his contribution this month. Justin has really stepped up to the mark in terms of using his initiative and leading the way. A “big thank you” to Management Committee Members who have supported Justin in the operations of the Secretariat.

In closing, “The content of my reports are really a reflection of the work that goes on behind the scenes which generally involves more than one.”

Keep up the good work!

Charlie Jia

SEQICC President