

President's Monthly Report – September 2007

First of all, I would like to officially welcome our new members to the South East Queensland Chamber of Commerce (Chamber). I encourage each of you to take a very proactive role with us, getting involved and participating in our events and projects can only improve business for you and the Chamber.

The Chamber attracted a considerable amount of interest during September. This interest and subsequent workload was well supported by Christine Kerr (Secretariat) and the commencement of our new trainee, Justin Power.

Justin will be completing the Certificate IV in Business (Business Development) over the next 12 months. He has been assigned the task of completing a project that involves profiling our members, understanding their products/services, how they commenced their business and why they joined the Chamber. It is envisaged a resource will be developed including case studies and testimonials that will assist the aspiring Indigenous entrepreneurs towards the realization of their business ideas.

Events

I had the pleasure of attending the following functions during the month:

- **Yorta Art Exhibition** – Heather and Ray Blacklock's work is becoming more and more popular and this was evident in their exhibition held on the 5th September in Milton. The exhibition attracted a number of well know interior designers and art collectors. Heather's artwork portrays her life experiences, growing up in Western Australia. Ray hails from Tingha, New South Wales and many would remember his rugby league exploits for the Newtown Jets. (5th September 2007)
- **Commerce Queensland Regional Council Meeting** – A monthly meeting of local Chamber Chairs to share and discuss news and issues relevant to the Brisbane region. (6th September 2007)
- **RAW 2008 Calendar Launch** – Dr Jackie Huggins AM helped launch Jade Johnson's RAW 2008 Calendar at Footsteps Gallery in the city on Friday 7th September. Jade has recently joined the Chamber and the hard work she has put into the development, design and production of this terrific calendar is exceptional. The calendar features a number of beautiful and talented Aboriginal women and can be purchased via her website -<http://www.raw2008.net.au> (7th September 2007)
- **The Wakening Conference** – This conference organised by Dale Chapman from the Dilly Bag in Eumundi was an initiative aided by the National Indigenous Leadership Program to bring together people from the Bush Tucker industry to begin discussing the potential and opportunities for their businesses. (8th September 2007)
- **Vision Australia Launch** – Vision Australia's is an organisation that partners with people who are blind, sighted or have low vision to improve access to and fully participation in every part of life they choose. Vision recently launched their retail outlet stocking visual aides and equipment specifically for their partners. (14th September 2007)
- **Official Indigenous Opening Ceremony** of the new Australian Indigenous Peoples' Unit of Southbank Institute of Technology – Attended on behalf of the Chamber and the Institute's Community Council. (18th September 2007)

- **Liquid Learning Indigenous Leadership Forum 2007** – Invited to speak at this national forum about the Chamber and its beginnings. The forum attracted approximately 100 Indigenous delegates from across the country. (19th September 2007)
- **Greater Brisbane Area Consultative Committee Best Practice Forum** – Facilitated the forum on behalf of the Chamber. This forum provided the opportunity to discuss best practice in Indigenous employment and training. (20th September 2007)
- **Edgware Indigenous Business Development Forum** – This forum, held up in the Glasshouse Mountains attracted Indigenous business entrepreneurs from Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. (22nd September 2007)
- **Workplace Relations Indigenous Programme** – Commerce Queensland and the Australian Government conducted this second seminar on the new workplace reforms and its relevance to Indigenous business and not for profit organisations. The first seminar was held in Ipswich and this one at Alexandra Hills. (26th September 2007)
- **SEQICC Networking@Night** – Held at the Victoria Park Golf Club this event attracted approximately 50 people. Guest Speaker, Waverley Stanley presented his vision for Yalari, his foundation that provides opportunities for remote Indigenous students to attend well renowned private schools. (26th September 2007)
- **ACPA Symposium** – This event was organised by the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts to discuss the future direction for its business and to look at strategies that will assist this process. (27th September 2007)

Thank You

On behalf of the Chamber, I would like to extend our gratitude to the Networking@Night event sponsors:

- The Indigenous Advancement Association Queensland
- Greater Brisbane Area Consultative Committee: and the
- Blak Business Smart Business Hub.

Also our thanks goes out to the businesses who took up the trade tables on the night, Aunty Valda Coolwell for her welcome and everyone who attended the function. Going by feedback on the night, the event was very successful.

Meetings

I've also attended a number of meetings with potential business partners that may assist the Chamber to deliver on its objectives for Indigenous business and the community.

Commerce Queensland, Maxnetwork, Southbank Institute of Technology, Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE and South Bank Corporation have a keen interest to partner with the Chamber to deliver their services to our Indigenous community. Further negotiations are to follow to firm up this interest.

I have also contacted South Sydney Rabbitohs seeking their interest and support for the proposed November event, which coincidentally will be the Chamber's 1st Anniversary. Unfortunately due to training schedules and work commitments, Souths aren't in a position to provide support in November, though are very keen to

know who we are and what we do and have expressed a genuine interest to provide support to the Chamber in 2008. This may be in the form of attendance by management and/or playing staff at an event next year.

We are still threshing out a number of financial matters and looking at future income potential for the Chamber. I would appreciate members input into this if there are some avenues yet to be explored.

Christine and Justin will continue to develop the website and will be looking at a event roster for future local chamber events. I encourage your involvement and participation.

Membership continues to grow though if you know of an Indigenous business who is not yet involved with the Chamber, please provide details to our Secretariat to follow up.

In closing, September has been extremely busy for the Chamber. As the Chamber's profile grows, so will our activity. We will endeavour to put together a calendar of events for 2008, tying up corporate and event sponsors will be everyone's task over the next couple of months. If you would like to have input into our 2008 events, please contact our Secretariat.

Charlie Jia

SEQICC President