

## President's Monthly Report – January 2008

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*“And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. “*

**Nelson Mandela**

On behalf of the SEQICC Management Committee, welcome to 2008 and a very exciting year ahead.

With the draft Strategic Plan being close to completion, a busy calendar of events, our AGM in March, the interest of major corporate sponsors looming and the prospect of taking on board a number of key projects our chamber looks in good shape to make significant gains for our business community and the community at large.

### **Strategic Plan**

I urge all Management Committee members to provide comment on the draft Strategic Plan as soon as possible so that this document can be circulated to our members for consideration and ratification.

### **Events**

Our first event in 2008 is generating a great deal of interest. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February the Chamber is hosting the “Indigenous Women in Business” Network @ Night function at the Shaftson Hotel in East Brisbane. We have a terrific line up of inspirational Indigenous Women and trade tables promoting their businesses on the night. This will be a fantastic occasion to hear their stories, gain an understanding of the highs and lows of business in South East Queensland for Indigenous Women and a great opportunity to meet, mingle, network and talk shop whilst enjoying the hospitality of this fine establishment. This event is an incredible opportunity for businesses to show their support and raise their profile by being a sponsor for the night. Please contact Christine Kerr ASAP to secure your spot.

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

- SEQICC Management Committee Meeting
- Meeting – Learning Network Queensland Training Officer Sue Evans and Christine Kerr
- Meeting – Commerce Queensland President Beatrice Booth and John Anderson, SEQICC Secretary.
- Meeting – Liz Logan and James Williams regarding the Reconciliation Business Forum and potential SEQICC small business expo.
- Greater Brisbane Area Consultative Committee Monthly Meeting – Co-opted member on this committee as well as the Regional Partnership Sub Committee.
- Meeting – Indigenous Recruitment Manager Ricky Pascoe of Spotless.
- Meeting – Footsteps Gallery Manager Bridgett Garay
- South East Brisbane Chamber of Commerce Breakfast – Guest Speaker, The Premier, the Honorable Anna Bligh. I had the opportunity to speak with the Premier on behalf of the Chamber and was encouraged to make contact with her office in the near future to continue these discussions. Great to see a delegation of SEQICC Members in attendance with Tiga Bayles and Karen Scott from 4 Triple A Murri Country, John Perry, Bill and Lyn Schonefeld of Boystown and Neil Willmetts of the Willmetts Group.

## **Corporate Sponsor/s**

A call went out last month for Corporate Sponsors and we are now in negotiations with a number of major businesses on the verge of becoming partners.

Welcome to a new Corporate Sponsor, Bluecare. A big thank you to Christine Kerr and Justin Power for engaging with Bluecare and making this partnership happen.

A member of the "Corporate Leaders for Indigenous Employment" initiative of the Australian Government, Bluecare is a major employer of residential aged care workers throughout Queensland and is very committed towards the recruitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers as a key component of its "Indigenous Care Strategy".

The support of our major sponsors is greatly appreciated and we look forward to developing a meaningful business relationship with Bluecare.

I continue to urge members who know of any organization, business or company interested in supporting and being involved with our Chamber, please contact Christine Kerr on 0419 010 637.

## **Conclusion**

I trust that it has been a great start to the year for all of our members, supporters and partners. I wish you all a prosperous year. I look forward to building stronger relationships and working together to continue the Chamber's success in 2008.

**Charlie Jia**

**SEQICC President**