

## **President's Monthly Report – June 2008**

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What an interesting month June 2008 has been for the Chamber. A number of key meetings, an award and two (2) great SEQICC Events rounded off a very busy month for Management Committee members, Justin Power and Christine Kerr.

I missed most of it, although I managed to be at the June SEQICC Networking @ Night Event. What a great night, well attended, terrific speakers and of course the Brisbane Lions AFL Club's Indigenous Players present. A big thank you to our Bronze Sponsors for this event. Allinta Rose from Deadly Life and Business Solutions and Wayne Denning from Carbon Media and Events Pty Ltd were terrific with their support and both inspired the audience with their presentations.

Following this event, I jetted off to Singapore and Thailand for three (3) weeks leave with the family.

I must say that if you haven't travelled before, put this on your "Bucket List" of things to do. Although the different cultures, the food and fantastic scenery were the highlight of the trip, it was also interesting to understand the way Singapore and Thai people do business. Sole traders and family run businesses everywhere operating just outside the doors of the big corporations. It truly is a eye opener and the trip increased my awareness of cultural tourism and similar business opportunities that could be successful, in Australia.

Many thanks to Management Committee members who represented the Chamber in my absence. In particular committee members, Nola Turner Jensen, Neil Willmetts and our Secretariat Justin Power.

Congratulations to everyone on the great win in the 2008 NAIDOC SEQ Awards. This is the very first time that we have won such a prestigious award. We have to remember that the Chamber is not quite two (2) years old and to receive accolades at this stage of our journey is phenomenal. What is even more impressive is that this recognition comes from our Indigenous communities in South East Queensland. Thank you Nola Turner Jensen for accepting the 2008 South East Queensland NAIDOC Distinguished Services Award for Business on the Chamber's behalf.

Whilst in Phuket, I received an email from Justin Power regarding a request from the Secretary General from East Timor to meet with members of the Chamber. Once again Nola Turner Jensen along with Neil Willmetts and Justin Power accepted this request to meet with Mr Dionisio Babo-Soares and from all accounts this meeting was a great opportunity to promote the Chamber and build a relationship with the East Timorese business community. Well done and I will look forward to further developments between our Chamber and East Timor.

The inaugural 2008 SEQICC NAIDOC Business Breakfast was another successful event. Many thanks to the Queensland Government (Platinum Sponsor) and the Greater Brisbane Area Consultative Committee (Gold Sponsor) for their support of this event. Again we attracted a great audience who were inspired by our Guest Speaker, Neil Willmetts's story. Our congratulations to Neil with the publication of his first book "How to start a successful Aboriginal Business in Australia" which he kindly donated a number of copies to the Chamber for sale. Thanks Neil.

Also our appreciation goes out to SEQICC Members Wayne Denning from Carbon Media Pty Ltd for his services as the event's MC and Michael Connelly for setting the ambience of the event with his didgeridoo performance. The breakfast will now be a regular event on the SEQICC calendar. Based on the fantastic feedback we received from attendees this event will grow in prominence and popularity.

*"If you do build a great experience, customers tell each other about that.  
Word of mouth is very powerful."*

*Jeff Bezos (Founder of Amazon.com)*

## **Conclusion**

A big welcome to new members:

- Inyaface Black Arts - Nancy Bamaga;
- The Maxima Group - Michael Franzman; and
- The Hornery Institute - David Mitchell

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

We still have a body of work to do for our future activities, in particular the prospect of the Queensland Indigenous Business Conference.

Once again Justin Power our Administration Trainee has excelled in his duties, especially in my absence though I am assured that a number of the Management Committee Members continue to offer their support in the operations of the Secretariat.

Thank you, congratulations and I look forward to growing our success, together.

**Charlie Jia**

**SEQICC President**