

President's Monthly Report – August / September 2008

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." (Nelson Mandela)

I'll start off by expressing my apology for the lateness of the August Report. I have decided to combine both the August and September reports as my account of the activities, developments and opportunities over these two (2) months.

August 2008

August 08 proved an eventful month which included the following activities:

- SEQICC Networking @ Night Event on the 19th September at the Creative Industries Precinct of the Queensland University of Technology in Kelvin Grove. This event was hosted by Wayne Denning's Carbon Media and Events Pty Ltd attracted a relatively small though enthusiastic group of businesses and interested community members.
- The Chamber's Administration Trainee Justin Power completing his Administration Traineeship 12 months ahead of time
- Justin Power's resignation to pursue employment with the Queensland Justice Department
- Two (2) Management Committee meetings took place in August (7th and 28th) with new member Carol Benson representing Jobs Centre Australia attending for the first time.
- Invitation from Opportune Network to attend the Sound Business Plan retreat in Fiji on behalf of the Chamber.

Justin's resignation was unexpected though the committee and members were very supportive, appreciative and proud of the work that he has done for the Chamber. The opportunities that he had available were too good to refuse. I know that we all congratulate him on his new appointment and wish him all the best.

We should be very proud of providing an opportunity for a young Aboriginal person to upgrade his skills enough for other employers to come calling. Well done everyone and well done Justin.

September 2008

The month started with the Sound Business Plan Retreat sponsored by the Opportune Network and the Australian Radio Network. The retreat took place in Fiji on Denarau Island and attracted approximately 60 businesses. I had the pleasure of representing the Chamber at this event which I can report had an enormous influence on my thinking in terms of our business and the way forward. I had the opportunity to speak one on one with a number of prominent business minds who helped me to refocus on the Chamber's key clients – our members and sponsors.

I received comment from various business strategists regarding the Chambers' strategic plan, proposed projects and potential partnerships to achieve our goals. The retreat went over 4 days with a number of daily workshops and one on one business sessions with the following business consultants:

- Colin Coverdale – Managing Director of the Opportune Network
- Len Potts – Private Marketing Consultant and the first New Zealander to address the World Congress of Advertising and whose clients include Saatchi & Saatchi, Colenso Advertising Mike Rhodes – Qualified Google AdWords Professional and E-Myth Consultant
- Bob Critchley – Director of Worklife International Pty Ltd.

I attended workshops facilitated by:

- Geoff Bickerton – Network Creative Director of the Australian Radio Network
- Chris Dawson – Network Strategy Manager of the Australian Radio Network
- Mike Rhodes – Qualified Google AdWords Professional and E-Myth Consultant
- Colin Coverdale – Managing Director of the Opportune Network
- Len Potts - Private Marketing Consultant

I will brief Management Committee Members regarding my findings from the retreat in particular an opportunity to partner with Opportune Network to investigate the potential of running a number of Indigenous Business Retreats as a new way forward for the Chamber, its members and sponsors.

Following the resignation of our Administration Trainee Justin Power, John Armstrong was approached by Nola Turner and myself to provide part-time ongoing secretariat support. John has agreed to one (1) day per week (Thursdays) to provide the following services until we are in a better financial position to secure full time arrangements:

- Administration support;
- Submission writing;
- Membership management; and
- Event management.

John is working on a DEEWR EIEI proposal for funding to provide mentoring, business development and also to set up a young entrepreneurs program. This proposal if funded will also provide the resources to engage operational staff to achieve the proposed outcomes.

Together we are currently planning the October Networking @ Night Event proposed for either the 21st or 28th October as well as a Corporate Sponsors Event and the 2nd Anniversary of the Chamber in November.

It was very encouraging to see a number of members present at the round table discussions for the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs – Inquiry into developing Indigenous enterprises hearing. The SEQICC was central to each area of discussion and members reinforced the positioning of the chamber as well as the potential to deliver a number of key services to the Indigenous business community in SEQ.

I had a meeting with Metropolitan Institute of TAFE on Thursday 25th September to discuss the Chamber's activities and future plans and how this can be enhanced in partnership with TAFE. Future meetings are planned to explore this potential.

I have also worked with our accountant, Justin Power and Christine Kerr to update our financial records over the past month so that Neil Willmetts our Treasurer can take over the management of our finances.

Conclusion

I am really excited due to the renewed energy I have from the Opportune Network retreat, the Parliamentary Standing Committee hearing and discussions with our members and other stakeholders who have an interest in developing working relationships with the Chamber. I am equally excited about the Chambers' future and the types of opportunities that lay ahead.

I would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors for their continuing support on behalf of our members and assure them that their commitment will be acknowledged as the Chamber pushes ahead to some exciting times.

I must say a big welcome to all our new and continuing members. We all look forward to meeting and working with each of you in the near future.

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

Charlie Jia

SEQICC President