



## Chairpersons Report 2017

I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report detailing activities of the Melbourne Business Awards over the past 12 months, an anniversary year in which we have celebrated 25 years of showcasing manufacturing businesses in the local region.

During the year we have recalled the activities of the past 25 years, reviewed where the Melbourne Business Awards is at, and invested energy in developing a strategy for the future of the organisation.

### THE BREAKFASTS

The core activity of the organisation is the 5 breakfasts it hosts each year, where we create a platform to showcase successful local businesses in the manufacturing sector, which exposes amazing stories of successful local companies, many evolving from small family businesses, an individual's passion or a just a great idea. This is what the MBA is about.

The 2016 year finished on a high with the December Gala Breakfast at which an audience of over 200 saw Tom Jovanovski from Zenith accept the MBA Business of the Year trophy. The MBA Innovation Award, sponsored by AusIndustry was presented to Tomcar Australia, the MBA inaugural Service Business Excellence Award to Atticus Health and the MBA Young Achiever Award to Hannah Wicke. A great morning was capped off with a quirky turnaround with a secret guest speaker.....our own MC Kamahl Baroush in a very different role

In 2017 eight successful and innovative businesses have been nominated though only 6 were showcased due to last minute changes in businesses activities, mostly due to global involvements- a sign of the changing times in manufacturing. Our audiences have been enlightened, educated and entertained by both our nominees and guest speakers, and much networking has occurred.

Kamahl Baroush has again exceeded each breakfast in an extremely professional style, engaging nominees, guest speakers and the entire audience. In May 2017 Kam engineered our Youth Forum "Changing of the Guard" from inception to delivery. Its great success has ensured a Youth Forum is on the 2018 calendar. Kam's warmth and great adlibbing has entertained and added friendliness and humour to each breakfast. We are delighted that Kam has agreed to volunteer his services again in 2018, and that his inclusive style will continue to develop the audience's spirited participation.

The breakfasts at Woodlands Golf Club certainly adds a relaxing aspect to all as they venture in at 6.30a.m. Our thanks go to Woodlands for their long term association and support of the MBA. Breakfast numbers in 2017 have been fairly stable at around 150.

### GUEST SPEAKERS

Our thanks go to all the guest speakers this year. All have given of their time voluntarily to inform, enlighten, motivate and entertain the audience across a variety of topics.

#### March 2017

#### **Business Disruption – Are you making the most of it?**

**Matt Nichols** Managing Director, Nichols Crowder and Nixon Industrial

## **May 2017**

### **Youth Forum "Changing Of The Guard"**

Drawing Innovative Ideas out of Young Employees (and getting the old guys to listen)"

This was a special Q&A panel discussion to inspire multiple generations to talk to each other in a way that drives innovation, growth and business success in the millennial world.

## **July 2017**

### **"Economic Update"**

**David Robertson**, Head of Financial Markets and Business Financial Solutions, Bendigo Bank

## **September 2017**

### **"25 Year Celebration Breakfast"**

**Larry Lopez**, National Director of the Australian Government's Entrepreneurs' program provided insights into key drivers in successfully commercialising technology followed by a wonderful "Celebrating 25 Years" presentation by **MBA Deputy Chair Rod Shell**

Our thanks go to Rod for his amazing contribution in recalling collating and presenting the MBA history in both the presentation on the day and the permanent legacy in the creation of the "Celebrating 25 Years" Book

## **December 2017**

### **Gala Awards Breakfast**

**Bryan Dawe** Political Satirist and Radio presenter

Winners of the 2017 Awards to be announced

## **THE AWARDS**

The 2017 "**MBA BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**" nominees have again identified amazing, diverse and highly impressive companies This year identified a number of businesses where passion and lifestyle choices has driven the way the business is operated.

- March Nominees – Enigma Clean, Peninsula Larder
- May Nominees – Perroplas
- July Nominees - Mulbury
- September Nominees – Propharma, Boge Rubber and Plastics

Sincere thanks to Suzanne Ferguson and Angela Stubbs from the City of Kingston, and others who assisted in the sourcing of the Business of the Year Nominees.

In May 2017 a **MBA BUSINESS LEGENDS AWARD** was presented to Suzanne Ferguson in recognition of her great support and service over 20 years to the MBA and to the broader economic and business community in the south east region

The 2017 "**MBA INNOVATION AWARD**" is once again being sponsored and selected by Aus-Industry, identifying a company from the nominees which displays commitment to R&D and innovation to drive its success.

At the time of writing this report the team of judges from the MBA Committee has again completed a full day visiting the sites of the 2017 Award Nominees. Judging Day is a highlight and great affirmation of what the MBA is about, seeing first -hand the innovation, skills and passionate people that drive these businesses. It is what energises this committee. We now look forward to the announcement of the 2017 winners at our December 1st Gala Breakfast

The 2017 **“MBA YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARD”** will identify a young person nominated by their employer who has made a significant contribution to their company.

The **“MBA SERVICE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD”** was trialled by the MBA committee in 2016. This award continued in 2017 to showcase the new breed of innovative service based businesses that are rapidly expanding across Melbourne’s southeast region. Nomination is by submission and must meet a list of key criteria.

## **PARTNERS**

Once again the MBA began the year on a financially sound basis and has continued to consolidate its position through the year, and is very appreciative of the continued support of Principal Partners **City of Kingston** and the **Dingley Village Branch of the Bendigo Community Bank**. **Holmesglen** increased its support to Principal Partner in 2017 which will foster training, youth and new business developments. Once again our thanks for their ongoing support to 2017 Silver Partners **AusIndustry, Nugents Group, M&K Lawyers, Bridged Group-Telstra Business Centre Bayside**. New Silver Partners welcomed in 2017, **Nichols-Crowder/Nixon Industrial**, has added a further layer of understanding trends in the manufacturing sector evidenced from a real estate perspective. The financial commitment of these Partners is the life blood of the organisation and to each we say thank you .Your sponsorship is sincerely appreciated and makes the whole thing possible.

To all the in-kind sponsors whose services facilitate many aspects of running the MBA we thank you - Complete Colour Printing, Streamscape, Mail and Marketing Solutions, Myles AV and for promotion and support of the MBA idea we thank Nabil Salam, Tom Gilmour and long time associates Ray de Jersey and Bob Gawne for their ongoing support.

There has been very enthusiastic support and a strong level of community spirit from all people on the Committee of Management. The time, energy and enthusiasm from these representatives are invaluable to the operation of such an organisation.

## **ANNUAL SUPPORTERS**

This year we have 60 Annual Supporters (companies and individuals who sign up to attend each breakfast). Ongoing efforts to increase the member base in 2018 will guarantee increased numbers at each breakfast and facilitate more efficient management. Discussions continue on this aspect of the organisation on how to achieve the best outcomes.

## **STRUCTURE**

Again in 2017 the Committee of Management (derived from our Partner and Supporter base) has been very fortunate to have the services of The Main Event to manage our organisation. We thank our Executive Officer Kim Mastrowicz and Gail Mastrowicz for their organisation, service and the spirit in which they support the MBA.

Finances have been ably monitored and managed by Nugents again in 2017. Sincere thanks to Gary Nugent for his support on the Executive Committee, as Treasurer, and for continual support of the organisation over 25 years.

Thanks to Paul Kirton for his participation on the Executive with his expertise and his leadership in the Service Business Excellence Awards.

To Deputy Chair Rod Shell sincere thanks from the MBA community and myself personally for your support, fresh ideas and monumental effort in all you have done to celebrate 25 years of the MBA...

The enthusiasm and participation of the committee members is inspiring, and will now allow an incoming committee to develop plans to extend our operation to broaden our audience base and benefits to our Partners and Supporters. My personal thanks go to the Executive and all committee members for their enthusiastic and ongoing support and commitment.

## **THE FUTURE**

Heading into 2018 we have confirmation of the continuing support of many of our current partners. This financial security allows us to plan, budget and have clear direction.

The Executive has identified that future success will depend on utilising our resources to extend and further develop relationships with other likeminded organisations, increase our audience numbers and extend our capacity to foster, identify and promote successful businesses.

A proposal separating the Executive Officer role from Event Management which clearly maximizes the skills, expertise and resources available to us has been developed. At this time we are currently refining and costing each of the roles, within the scope of our budget, to ensure sustainability and a clear succession into the future. I am pleased to report that discussions with Kim from The Main Event has confirmed desire for The Main Event continue as event managers, whilst Rod Shell has confirmed his willingness to further develop the role of Executive Officer in 2018. Rods passion for manufacturing is supported by a background in both the private sector and local government and will be a wonderful asset to the future development of the MBA.

The Executive believes this model will allow the Melbourne Business Awards to adapt to the changing needs of the organisation and benefit the MBA audience, Partners and Supporters.

Another exciting and satisfying year for the Melbourne Business Awards is coming to a close but the years ahead are looking very positive as we move forward in this rapidly changing business environment.

**Denise Langford**  
**Chairperson**