

## 2014 Chairpersons Report

I am pleased to present the 2014 annual report

The writing of the report reflects on the previous twelve months activity, gives a projection of the future and the opportunity to acknowledge all those who have contributed. At this time it is also valuable to restate the organisations core activity and vision. What has happened and what will happen is totally dependent on those actively involved.

On behalf of the committee I thank and acknowledge the past Chair, Geoff Lawyer from Complete Colour, for his efforts and achievements over many years of involvement in the MBA. I thank the Committee for placing their trust in me to continue the good work, when taking up the position in March this year. To all who have contributed a very big thank you for your support.

### **THE BREAKFASTS**

The core activity of the organisation is the 5 breakfasts it hosts each year, where successful and innovative businesses are showcased, guest speakers enlighten and much networking occurs

At the time of writing this report a team of 15 judges from the MBA Committee has just completed a full day visiting the sites of the 2014 Award Nominees. This day is a great affirmation of what the MBA is about –seeing firsthand the innovation, the passion, skill and people that drive these businesses. This is what energises this committee. Our very worthy 2013 MBA Business of the Year was staircase manufacturer of 94 years Slattery and Acquoroff. We now look forward to the announcement of the 2014 winner at our December Gala Breakfast from our diverse and highly impressive group of nominees including Jodek, Advanced Natural, Chocolate Works, Bestek, Direct Paper Supplies, The Wrapping Paper Company, Charlies Cookies and Orgran.

Our thanks go to all the guest speakers at our breakfasts over the past year - Rob Brooker, Melinda Walker, Jurgen Schneider, Alex Commins and Stacey Currie. All have given of their time voluntarily to enlighten, motivate and entertain the audience across a variety of topics.

We sincerely thank our MC Kamahl Barhoush for volunteering his services over the past year. His polished and professional approach is what makes these breakfasts. We are hopeful of his continuing support in 2015

Our long association with Hemisphere as the venue for these breakfasts will end this year with its closure. To all at Hemisphere, our thanks for many years of very professional support and involvement. In 2015 our breakfasts will be held at Woodlands Golf Club. We look forward to developing a long term relationship with them.

Over the past year the number of attendees at the breakfasts has gradually increased but for future growth and sustainability it will be necessary to build numbers by increasing our member base (companies and individuals who sign up for a year) and also broadening our audience to include more companies from both the manufacturing, industrial and associated sectors. Future consideration will need to be given to other affiliated businesses which can enhance these awards and create sustainability for the MBA in a changing business environment.

## **SPONSORS**

A review of the MBA financial position early this year indicated the need to shore up the future by aligning additional financial support through new sponsors. The MBA is very appreciative of the commitment made by Bridged Group-Telstra Business Centre Bayside and the Dingley Village Branch of the Bendigo Community Bank. They joined long time partners City of Kingston, as Principle Sponsors. We were also grateful to Rotary Club of Bentleigh Moorabbin Central and Aus Industry for signing on for 2015 joining long term supporters Nugents and M&K Lawyers as Silver sponsors. Thanks yet again to Bronze partners, Dept of Business and Innovation and Holmesglen TAFE. The financial commitment of these Sponsors is the life blood of the organisation.

To all the in-kind sponsors whose services facilitate many aspects of running the MBA we thank you - Complete Colour Printing, Snapsite, Mail and Marketing Solutions, Mossman Consulting and Myles AV and Advice for Growth.

This year we have been extremely fortunate in having the additional support of individuals who have promoted and supported the MBA idea. Thanks to Tom Gilmore for increasing our member base, and long time associates Ray de Jersey and Bob Gawne for their ongoing efforts to re-engage past nominees and attendees. To Trevor Ray, who is retiring from the Department of Innovation and Business our thanks for your commitment and involvement over many years.

There has been very enthusiastic support and a strong level of community spirit from all people on the Committee of Management (derived from our Sponsor and Member base). The time, energy and enthusiasm from these representatives is invaluable. Development of this spirit will create further scope and opportunity for the MBA .

## **STRUCTURE**

We are very fortunate to have the services of The Main Event to support our organisation. We thank Kim and Gail for their wonderful service and the spirit in which they support the MBA.

As with all organisations it is the people who make it work. The enthusiasm and participation of the committee members has been reassuring and allowed things to progress, and has seen a sharing of the load.

Thanks to Don Gregg and Nabil Salameh for planning and facilitating Strategic Planning Meetings which were critical to formulate a way forward. As a result there are now two sub committees - "AWARDS" and "MARKETING" with a vote to endorse the leaders of each joining the executive. A further subcommittee/leader SPONSORSHIP would cover all major aspects of the management and create a very sound executive to work with Kim.

With further refinement, and continuation of the enthusiasm and support which surrounds the MBA the future is looking very positive.

**Denise Langford**  
**Chairperson 2014**