



## Chairpersons Report 2018

I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report of Melbourne Business Awards. The report details activities and accomplishments over the past 12 months, and our exciting future plans.

By building on the achievements of the last 26 years, we will maximise our resources to continue the promotion of, whilst remaining relevant to, manufacturing and industry in the South East Region of Melbourne

### THE BREAKFASTS

The core activity of the organisation is the 5 breakfasts it hosts each year, where we create a platform to showcase local businesses in the manufacturing sector, exposing amazing stories of successful companies, many evolving from small family operations, an individual's passion or a just a great idea. At these breakfasts the audience is inspired, motivated, and connected to like-minded people. This is what the MBA is about.

We thank both Kim Mastrowicz and Gail Mastrowicz from the Main Event for their superb organisation of these breakfasts and the spirit in which they support the MBA

The 2017, (our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year), finished on a high with the December Gala Breakfast where an audience of over 200 saw a very excited and proud Gerry and Val Melder from **Mulbury** accept the **MBA Business of the Year** trophy.

The **MBA Innovation Award** was presented by AUSIndustry to **BOGE Rubber and Plastics**.

The **MBA Service Business Excellence Award** was awarded to **NULAB Group**.

The **MBA Young Achiever Award** was awarded to **John Khoury** from **Zenith**.

Our congratulations go all participants in these Awards.

To cap off a morning of celebration we were all fortunate to be inspired by an amazing presentation from political satirist and radio presenter **Brian Dawe**.

In 2018 many successful and innovative businesses have been identified, 8 nominations proceeded with 6 ultimately being showcased due to sudden changes in businesses activities and ownership - a sign of the rapidly changing times in manufacturing. Yet again, our audiences have been enlightened, educated and entertained by both our nominees and guest speakers, and importantly, much valuable networking has occurred.

A new segment "Behind the Roller Door" launched at the 2018 Breakfasts, showcases often "invisible" businesses, making highly specialised or crafted products, often in closed factory spaces. These are sometimes products we know well, or products we didn't know even existed and are not aware they are made locally! Featured companies this year were **Vesper Tools, Studio 57F1 and Bedguard**

Kamahl Barhoush has again exceeded our breakfasts, engaging nominees, guest speakers and the entire audience. Yet again Kam's professional style coupled with warmth and great adlibbing has entertained and added friendliness and humour to each breakfast. Past MC (and current EO and Deputy Chair), Rod Shell, very ably stepped in, in Kam's absence at our September Breakfast. Not many organisations can boast two great emcees-!! We are grateful for Kam's great contribution over the years and thank him for agreeing to volunteer his services again in 2019, when his inclusive style will continue to develop the audience's spirited participation.

To date, 2018 audience numbers have fluctuated between 120-150. (A target figure of 150+ at each breakfast is our goal for 2019)

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 generous support of the MBA.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

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

### **FEBRUARY 2018**

**Susan Alberti AC**, Australian businesswoman, philanthropist and Vice President of the Western Bulldogs Football Club.

### **MAY 2018**

**"Changing of The Guard**-Leaders of today inspiring leaders of tomorrow"

Panel members -**Jamie Sturgess** M&K Lawyers, **John Khoury** Zenith, MBA 2017 Young Achiever, **Cr. Georgina Oxley** Deputy Mayor, City of Kingston and Business owner, **Lidia Cavallo** DFKNugents.

### **JULY 2018**

**"Economic Update"**

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

## **SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **“The internet of Things”**

**Gavin Smith**, President, Bosch Australia

## **DECEMBER 2018**

**Gala Breakfast** Winners of the 2018 Awards to be announced

Entertainment by Comedian **Trevor Marmalade**

## **THE AWARDS**

The 2018 **“MBA BUSINESS OF THE YEAR”** nominees have again identified amazing, diverse and highly impressive companies This year identified many businesses where passion, lifestyle choices and strong values of community and the environment has prevailed

- February 2018 Business of the Year Nominees  
**Co-ex films**  
**Gourmet Juniors**
- April Nominees  
**ODS Glass**
- July Nominees –  
**Replas**  
**Australian UGG Boots**
- August Nominees  
**Grants of Australia**

Sincere thanks to Angela Stubbs from the City of Kingston, and others who assisted in the sourcing of the Business of the Year 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. 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 2018 Award Nominees We now look forward to the announcement of the 2018 winners at our November 30th Gala Breakfast

The 2018 **“MBA BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD”** will be presented to a company in the manufacturing or industrial sector which exhibits drive and initiative, and has demonstrated success and innovation in their field.

The 2018 **“MBA SERVICE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD”** is presented to one of the new breed of innovative service -based businesses that are rapidly expanding across Melbourne’s southeast region to support and enhance the changing Manufacturing and Industrial sector.

The 2018 “**MBA YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARD**” will once again identify a young person nominated by their employer who has made a significant contribution to their company.

The “**MBA BENDIGO BANK DINGLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD**” initiated by the bank, will recognise a nominee for their contribution to the Community.

## **PARTNERS**

The MBA has strong support from both cash and in-kind partnerships and is very appreciative to all.

In 2018 we were fortunate to have the continued support of **Principal Partners**

- **City of Kingston**
- **Dingley Village Branch of the Bendigo Community Bank**
- **Holmesglen,**

And is grateful for the ongoing support of 2018 **Silver Partners,**

- **DFKNugents,**
- **M&K Lawyers,**
- **Bridged Group-Telstra Business Centre Bayside**
- **Nichols-Crowder/Nixon Industrial**

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 new partners in 2018 Effective Working Image and Quest Cheltenham.**

For promotion and support of the MBA idea we thank **Nabil Salam, Tom Gilmour** and long-time associates **Ray de Jersey** and **Bob Gawne.**

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 64 Annual Supporters (companies and individuals who sign up to attend each breakfast). Continuing efforts in 2019 to increase and broaden the Annual Supporter base will guarantee increased numbers at each breakfast and facilitate more efficient management.

## **STRUCTURE**

In 2018 the roles of **Executive Officer** and **Event Manager** were separated to allow greater focus, workload control and management of operations of the MBA.

Whilst The Main Event continues to manage the Events, this year saw the appointment of an Executive Officer, the role being taken up by Rod Shell (also the deputy Chair). This clearly maximized the skills, expertise and resources available to us.

Finances have again been professionally monitored and managed by DFKNugents. Sincere thanks to Gary Nugent for his support on the Executive Committee, as Treasurer/Secretary and for his continual active involvement of the organisation over 26 years.

Thanks to Paul Kirton from MK Lawyers for his participation on the Executive, his expertise in legal matters, and leadership in the Service Business Excellence Awards.

The Executive believes that continuing and further developing 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 and offer greater opportunity to like organisations which could benefit from association with the MBA

## **THE 2018 ACHIEVEMENTS**

Presenting 5 successful Breakfasts since November 2017 with an upcoming Gala Breakfast on Nov 30<sup>th</sup>2018

A major revision and update of the Rules of Association of the MBA undertaken for approval by the Advisory Committee following the AGM. Our thanks to Executive member Paul Kirton for his expertise in this area.

Creation of a Resourcing Matrix-A major review identifying and clarifying the roles responsibilities and resources required to maintain a sustainable organisation in the future.

Extensive collection, collation and e-recording of all statistical data and MBA records.

Creation of broader data base of potential speakers.

Creation of data base of potential nominees

An ongoing review and update of the website

Refinement and updating of all documentation related to Awards and Programs

The development of a Strategic Plan to clearly identify what is required to remain relevant to our purpose and set realistic goals going into 2019.

The formation of a Youth Hub bringing together like minded young people and potential Leaders in Business.

Connection with the schools sector through South Oakleigh College with the of a “Business Voice Project” to be developed and initiated in 2019

Relationship development with external organisations SEM (SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE), State Government of Victoria through DEDJTR, City of Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce and SEMMA,

With Rods long standing association with the MBA, his passion for manufacturing (and detail), supported by a background in both the private sector and local government, we have been able to update many aspects of governance, identify and clarify operational procedures and forge a connection with external organisations where there is synergy. This has created a clear vision for the future. The MBA sincerely thanks Rod for his effort and commitment in his dual role as Executive Office and Deputy Chair

## **THE FUTURE**

In 2018 the Executive Committee has identified that future success will depend on sufficient available resources to extend and further develop relationships with other likeminded organisations, to increase audience numbers and extend our capacity to foster, identify and promote successful businesses in Melbourne’s south-east.

Once again, the MBA began the year on a financially sound basis and has continued to hold its position through the year. Heading into 2019 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. However, we will continue to reach out to extend our partner numbers to increase financial resources. This is essential to allow the MBA to broaden its base and expand the success of the past 26 years.

The enthusiasm and participation of the committee members is inspiring and will allow an incoming committee to further develop and implement plans to extend our operation, increasing audience numbers and revenue and ultimately 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.

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

**Denise Langford**  
**Chairperson**