



## **Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand**

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### **President's Report - September 2005 Annual General Meeting, Armidale, NSW**

SEAANZ has members throughout Australia, New Zealand and parts of Asia. It is incorporated as a non-profit organisation and has subsidiary chapters in Queensland, Western Australia and New Zealand. It also publishes a regular research journal, and hosts an annual conference. It has an international management committee of approximately ten persons, which meets (either by phone or personally) every 2-3 months. There are two dedicated websites – [www.seanz.asn.au](http://www.seanz.asn.au) and [www.seanz.org.nz](http://www.seanz.org.nz). Membership currently stands at approx. 280 people.

#### **Activities During 2004-5**

Since the last AGM, several activities of note have taken place:

- The *Networker* newsletter has been converted into a free online monthly email information alert service for members and stakeholders, providing updates on the latest development within the small business and entrepreneurship sector;
- A regular dialogue with selected other small business organisations in Australia began. A small number of teleconferences were held with representatives from the business advisory arena (Business Enterprise Centres Australia) and Business Incubation Australia. The Australasian Institute of enterprise Facilitators has recently also re-raised the possibility of a closer working relationship with SEAANZ.
- Committee: My thanks to Michael Christie, Tony Clemenger, Judy Hartcher, Claire Massey, Christine Reid, Beth Walker, Rowena Barrett, Julian Lowe, Brian Gibson for their help, and to the SEAANZ secretariat (Colin Dunn & Kathy Griffiths). At last year's AGM, Christine Reid was elected unopposed to the position of President, but was unable to take up the position. The SEAANZ committee consequently filled the position, and Christine remained on as a Vice-President. Thanks also to Carol Dalglish and Bev Webster, who both served as ordinary committee members, but had to resign due to work commitments.
- Our preceding SEAANZ president, Colin Dunn, took up the role as president of the International Council for Small Business. Judy Hartcher, Claire Massey and Michael Schaper are also members of the ICSB board.
- The association's constitution is being revised and updated. This will be put to our members for a vote at this Annual General Meeting.
- Representatives from SEAANZ attended the last two meetings of the National Small Business Forum, chaired by the Commonwealth Minister for Small Business, Fran Bailey MP, in Canberra in May and September.
- Negotiations have begun with a number of publishers about transferring our journal *Small Enterprise Research* into an electronic format, which will allow it to be included in the information databases of most libraries and universities; and new assistant editors (Claire Massey and John Watson) have been appointed.

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