



Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand

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President's Report - September 2007 Annual General Meeting, Manukau City, New Zealand

Secretariat

After considerable work on reviewing the best options for the secretariat a decision was made to bring the secretariat to New Zealand to Massey University. Massey is the largest business school in the country, with almost 300 academic staff and is the New Zealand leader in education and research on small business and entrepreneurship. The secretariat is being hosted within the New Zealand Centre for SME Research, on the university's Wellington campus. The move was strongly supported by the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Business and by the SEAANZ board.

Annual Conference

This year the conference is being held in Manukau City, New Zealand. This conference is a departure from the usual format, with the conference being co-hosted by three organisations; SEAANZ, EDANZ (the Economic Development Association of New Zealand) and ANZRAI (the Australian and New Zealand Regional Sciences Association International). This format has been adopted as one way of ensuring that there is the maximum potential for interaction between practitioners (who are chiefly members of EDANZ) and researchers who make up the larger group of members in both SEAANZ and ANZRAI.

An offer has been made to host the 2008 conference in Canberra.

Journal: Small Enterprise Research

During 2006 the journal entered into an agreement with EBSCO – bringing to fruition a long-planned move to make the journal available electronically. While the journal will continue to be published in hard copy, it is clear that it is critical to be available in other forms. This makes it possible to reach more readers and this has an influence on the number of and the quality of the articles submitted. This arrangement will be available from September, 2007. Over this time Brian Gibson has continued as editor, but with his imminent relocation he has announced his intention to retire as editor. On behalf of the membership I offer my thanks to Brian to his contribution to the journal and wish him every success in his new role.

Portfolios

Over the last year the four Vice-Presidents (Tony Clemenger, Margaret Drever, Michael Christie, Colin Jones) have been responsible for separate portfolios, namely marketing, journal, financial & legal and conferences. Other committee members (Stuart Locke, Gaelle Deighton, Hermina Burnett, Kate Lewis and John Mercer) have also taken responsibility for specific tasks. In addition, Gaelle and Stuart have led the conference organization. My thanks to the committee members as well as to Allison Taranchokov for so ably taking over the secretariat.

ICSB Activity

The SEAANZ President is automatically a member of the ICSB Board and since June 2006 the Board has met in Orlando, Florida (January) and Turku, Finland (June). The executive committee met in Halifax, Nova Scotia in September.

Upcoming conferences are scheduled to take place in Halifax (2008), Seoul (2009) & Cincinnati (2010)

There are emerging affiliates (chapters in India, SA, China and Israel;

Claire Massey

President, SEAANZ International Committee

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