

The Annual General Meeting of CIOB Australasia was held 1 May 2008, in Sydney



From L to R: Jodie Richards-McCabe – Branch Administrator, Zubin Marolia – Past Honorary Treasurer, Kerry London – Education Panel Chair, Pat Weaver – Imm. Past President & Publications, Lawrence Jones – NZ Committee Member, Chris Chainey - President, Adam Perigo – NSW Centre Chair, John Tookey – Education Panel and Robyn Smith – Australasia Memberships Officer.

Fourteen members and the Regional Committee and staff attended the recent Annual General Meeting held in Sydney. Reports were tabled by the outgoing president Patrick Weaver and regional manager, Elizabeth Thomas, as well as the Annual Financial Statements for CIOB Australasia.

All Council positions were filled with nominations proposed and seconded and elected unopposed. A special vote of thanks was given to Gerald di Corpo who has, since the time of its inception in 2003, been the editor of the local publication Contact Australasia. CIOB and our regional members are indebted to Gerald for his consistent efforts in producing such a quality journal. This task now falls to the outgoing president Patrick Weaver, who was also thanked for his two years as President.

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CBC Schemes

The Chartered Building Company and Consultancy Schemes (CBCs) are a vital part of the CIOB, the industry's leading Professional Institution for construction management. Whilst individual CIOB membership reflects the individual member's professional knowledge and experience, the CBC schemes take the Institute's membership into a business perspective.

Current thinking and initiative in the construction industry encourages the highest standards of quality. An organisation of any size, be it a construction company or consultancy, should demonstrate that it manages its operations efficiently, employing and managing competent, trained staff and sub-contractors. These organisations will comply with industry and safety regulations and 'Best Practice' and, above all, deliver a first class service to their customers.

CBCs aim to offer such excellence. Their status cannot be bought. Rigorous qualification requirements are in place for their executive directors or partners, who are expected to see to the continuous development of their staff at all levels.

Go to <http://www.cbcschemes.org.uk/cbcscheme/> to find out more

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Past President's Report

My two-year tenure as President came to a close at the AGM on 1 May and a new team has been elected to move our region forward. Overall I believe the last two years have been a success but development has remained stubbornly below my aspirations.

We now have over 400 members, 20% below my target of 500; this is despite a very high retention rate (annual renewals) and steady growth. We have a strong regional structure emerging with effective centres operating in Auckland, Brisbane and our starting point Sydney, and developing in Perth and Melbourne. The new constitution needed to support this diverse structure is still being developed. Whilst CIOBA's overall Governance restructure is progressing to plan our constitution cannot be formalised until the overarching systems are bedded down. Hopefully, our new constitution will be finalised later this year.

On the administration and management front we have been more successful. CIOBA now has a permanent office in Sydney and Robyn Smith has joined our staff to focus on membership. Elizabeth is the Regional Manager responsible for a myriad of things, Jodie has responsibility for helping organise and supporting our increasing range of events in the Centres and Robyn will focus on first helping people become members and then upgrading their membership to the appropriate professional level. This structure has two benefits, in the same way Jodie has quickly become proficient at the organising and delivery of events across our region, Robyn will



Patrick Weaver presenting the President's Badge to Chris Chainey.

become knowledgeable and effective in the support of people's membership aspirations. And more importantly, Liz will have the time to focus on more strategic issues and supporting your council in the overall development of CIOBA's influence in our region.

We have a lot to do. The opening of Heathrow's new Terminal 5 in the week this column was written brought two thoughts to mind. The first was the UK media's apparent inability to celebrate success in our industry (which was reflected in the Australian coverage). The largest free standing building in the UK completed on time, on budget and with a safety record to be envied was hardly mentioned compared to the

coverage the various 'objectors' received, and to the disastrous opening by the operators. The inability of our industry to explain its successes in a way that the general media can appreciate has long term repercussions ranging from the attractiveness of a 'building career' to students leaving school, through to the economic wellbeing of our nations as we struggle to resolve 'infrastructure bottlenecks'.

The second thought was more profound – looking to the future. Comparing Terminal 5, probably the most successful building project in Europe this decade, with the new Beijing International Terminal; the Beijing terminal is about twice the size, half the cost and planned and built in almost a third of the time. Traditional UK and Australasian builders (the industry that created CIOB more than 180 years ago) are facing new dynamics and the benchmarks for success are being raised. We need to start focusing on innovation and evolving the construction industry to meet the needs of the 21st and 22nd Centuries.

I have enjoyed the last two years and look forward to supporting the new President and Council as the IPP for the next year or two. There are so many people that I acknowledge and thank for their valued help over the past two years. I wholeheartedly encourage you all to consider joining your local Centre committees and/or the Regional Council and to help make a positive difference to our industry in the future.

Patrick Weaver

Immigration package to ease skills shortage

Media Statement – 17 February 2008

From: <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0208/msimmc170.php>

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Chris Evans, today unveiled a package of migration measures designed to address Australia's skills and labour shortages.

Senator Evans said the package had the potential to provide thousands of additional workers in the short term, especially for the labour-strapped mining and construction industries.

An External Reference Group made up of industry experts will also examine how selected temporary skilled migration measures can help ease labour shortages in the medium to long term.

Senator Evans said the package would complement the Rudd Government's move to fast-track the establishment of Skills Australia in order to help lift the productive capacity of the Australian economy and fight inflation.

The Minister said that concerns had been raised by the states and a number of industries regarding their ability to rapidly start up new and significant projects because of skilled labour shortages.

"Skills and labour shortages are also a major cause of inflationary pressures in the economy," Senator Evans said.



Chris Evans

As an immediate measure, the Skilled Migration program will be increased by 6,000 places in 2007-08. The increase will be made up of permanent employer sponsored visas and General Skilled Migration visas.

"Employer sponsored visas are the highest priority because they put a migrant worker directly into a skilled job," Senator Evans said.

The General Skilled Migration program selects people with the right skills and qualifications to work in industries where labour is in demand.

The additional 6,000 places will bring to 108,500 the total number of permanent visas granted under the Number Stream of the migration program in 2007-08.

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Council elected their new president, Christopher Chainey. Chris is an FCIOB member working in Project Development for an established Queensland construction company: J. Hutchinson Builders. In the UK and prior to immigrating to Australia in 1999, Chris accumulated a wealth of construction experience in the last 27 years within the industry and operated a partnership in a construction company, together with a subsidiary Management Consultancy company primarily involved in Project management services.

Chris is committed to visiting all CIOB Australasia's centres in his first term of office and looks forward to speaking to the broader membership in the months to come.

An EGM is to be held within the next year to make way for members to adopt a new constitution. This will include plans to alter the AGM format to allow for proxy voting in future years allowing those unable to personally attend the AGM to have their vote counted.

Members in attendance at this year's AGM were from as far afield as Melbourne, Brisbane, Newcastle and Auckland. Enthusiastic conversation on how best to steer CIOB Australasia into the future was held over Tapas and Pizza at a nearby restaurant following the AGM close.

If you would like to find out more about the AGM, or the newly elected Council please visit the website: www.ciob.org.au

Elizabeth Thomas, Australasia Regional Manager.