

President's Column

CIOB Australasia has been growing steadily both in numbers and influence in our region and contributing strongly to the development of the CIOB internationally as it re-defines its overall governance systems to stay effective and relevant in the 21st century.

Last year we were the fastest growing region outside the UK and have moved a long way towards becoming a true regional body with centres as far a-field from our regional centre in Sydney, as Auckland and Perth. The Regional Council and Centre Committees elected at the AGM in May 2006, will need to build on these foundations to allow CIOB Australasia to 'think regionally and act locally'. I warmly encourage all CIOB members residing and/or working in Australasia to become involved, to help build CIOB Australasia and to make it a valuable part of the Australasian building industry. No one who volunteers will be refused a challenging role!

Centre committees and our Education Committee are the key, providing events and liaison in your state or city. These are the teams supported by our professional staff and Council (see page 12 of this newsletter) that will make CIOB Australasia a dynamic, useful and relevant body in their local areas and industries.

The role of Regional Council is to integrate and support these committees with resources and know-how and, with the assistance of our professional staff, to help them to be successful.

Of critical importance this year is the appointment

of a new Treasurer. Nominations are invited.

Zubin Marolia has filled this role admirably for the last three years and, under our constitution, has to step down at the coming AGM. Ideally a replacement person will be known well ahead of the May meeting to allow a phased handover. The work of the Treasurer is supported by a professional accountant and focuses on financial management rather than simply book-keeping.

I would like to place on public record my personal appreciation of Zubin's invaluable work, guiding us towards a stable mature and effective business model.

On a personal level, if elected in May, I will be happy to serve the second year of my term as President to keep our momentum going. The three key elements for the 2007/8 term will be:

- Continuing the focus on developing strong Centres to deliver events and effective liaison around the Region.
- Completing work on the new constitution and administrative protocols, relevant for a Region of our geographic size and diversity.
- Maintaining the focus on building relationships with the Universities across our Region and starting to work towards similar connections with the various TAFE Colleges.

2006 was a really successful year for us as a Region. Are you willing and able to contribute to making 2007 event better? If you are, either complete the enclosed nomination form or



contact our regional manager Elizabeth Thomas, or myself to discuss the best way you can help. We look forward to hearing from you.

Any questions, thoughts or ideas for growing CIOB Australasia generally or in your area will be welcome. You are invited to telephone me on +613 969 8684 or email patw@mosaicprojects.com.au with your ideas.

Patrick Weaver
President, CIOB Australasia

Invitation for Nominations for CIOB Australasia Regional and Centre Councils.

CIOB Australasia 2007 AGM will be held 6:00pm 1st May at Woollahra Council, NSW. Nomination slips are included with this issue of Contact and we are seeking members to fill roles in all our active centres:

The Regional Council comprises: President / Vice Presidents / Treasurer / Regional Events Coordinator / Publications-Editor Contact / University Liaison Managers / Education Panel Chair. The Regional Council meets in Sydney three times per year and holds "Interwise web conference" meetings three times per year.

Our current Treasurer, Zubin Marolia must stand down from the role after 3 years faithfully fulfilling

this position. Any members interested in taking on this role are asked to contact the office as soon as possible.

The Centre Councils in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth & Auckland, each comprise the Centre Chair and Committee Members.

If you are interested in assisting with activities in your region we are seeking representatives to assist the Centre Chairs in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth & Auckland. Centre committees are the lifeblood of CIOB Australasia, managing events and liaison with universities, governments and the industry in their area. The Regional Manager and staff provide administrative support

to the centres and the Regional Council provides overall coordination and assistance but it is the teams in the centres that make the local decisions and support members in their home cities.

If you are interested in assisting with our Education activities we have an Education Panel with members from various states and universities. The primary role of this group is to manage our student and research grants and to work towards CIOB qualifications being fully recognised in Australasia.

If you would like to get involved in any way, great or small, please complete a nomination slip or contact the office for further details.

CIOB Subscriptions

Nobody likes parting with money for membership subscriptions particularly when they become due immediately after Christmas. The coffers are empty and recovery is still a distant dream. However members of the CIOB buck the trend. Increasingly, year on year, more members pay when subscriptions are due and 2007 has been the best year yet. In this way your subscriptions go further; less goes to fund late payers and the costly exercise of chasing them up.

Members who do not pay by the 31 March forfeit

their membership. This is almost 5 months after the renewal notices are sent out. Should you find yourself in this situation, though you may find it difficult to admit it, you can still reinstate your membership on payment of a reinstatement fee. After 30 June you are on your own. If you then wish to rejoin you will have to apply as a non-member and go through the full qualification processes, with fees payable.

Most members are proud of their membership achieved through hard work and determination

and do not readily wish to see it slip through their fingers. A few however may not be in a position to continue with membership. If this is the case we would request you formally resign and in that way your debt no longer remains due.

CIOB subscriptions, at less than 50% of RICS subscriptions, remain excellent value.

Michael A Brown
Deputy Chief Executive