

I take this opportunity to acknowledge formally our members' appreciation of Federal funding and its implementation by all levels of government. I feel that the unprecedented generosity of assistance, the flexibility of eligibility criteria and the veritable army of advisors have not only assisted people physically but has also helped them cope emotionally.

Treasurer Melanie Burrowes has looked after our funds well starting with \$3,800 and finishing with \$4,250 although in the last three months, the figure has come closer to \$6000. Since March she has also looked after membership. The hard work of Sponsorship Co-ordinator Teresa Davis with the assistance of Louise Nielsen has been the main contributor to this healthy bank balance. We thank them both and all sponsors and donors for their generosity and support.

We now need to know how these funds can be best used for the benefit of the members. Later this evening you will be asked to assist the new committee by contributing your ideas on how to solve this pleasant problem.

As a committee it has not been an easy year with the tasks of three unfilled positions having to be covered by the rest of us. The response by the membership for this coming year has been gratifying and I appreciate the thought that a number of you have given to taking on a committee position, even if you finally decided that it was not possible — we will be counting your children's birthdays though!

I thank the outgoing team for their support, dedication and efficiency and offer my congratulations and support to the new committee.

Contrary to expectations, I repeat that I have enjoyed my term as President and now thank those who 'conned' me into taking it on. Thanks to all of you, I have certainly got out more than I put in and, wherever I may be in eventual retirement, I look forward to going to the website to track the progress of our network.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2005 — 2006

Those of you who attended last year's AGM will remember that I accepted my nomination for President with great reluctance when it became obvious that no-one else was willing to take on the role. However, I am pleased to say that it has been both an enjoyable and rewarding experience. I have been involved in many organisations experiencing power play, factions, back-stabbing and general lack of cohesion but part of this year's pleasure has been the total absence of all these in TBWN. There has been a great level of co-operation and sense of common purpose in the membership. Only the fact that I hope soon to be retired and moving on has prevented me from nominating for a second term.

At our 'Directions for 2006' workshop, the Committee decided that, in our second year, we should take a conservative approach and consolidate the gains of the enthusiastic first year. I feel that we have achieved this with a membership increase from 48 to 53 where we may have expected a loss once the excitement of a new enterprise died down.

This consolidation is also in evidence with the gradual increase in numbers attending our monthly networking dinners with more members also becoming regular attenders. A large part of this success is due to the efforts of Events Co-ordinator, Gina Raccanello who has kept us visiting the different towns in an interesting range of venues. The quality speakers produced firstly by Sue Fairley and then by Leslie Ring have kept interest levels high with the main focus this year being different aspects of growing our businesses.

As 'all work and no play' is not one of our aims, we had a great outdoor Christmas Party at Sue Fairley's, a Wine Tasting in January when no function was scheduled and of course, tonight's second birthday celebration.

Regular communication is another contributor to our consolidation; our website and eNewsletter 'Dots on Top' do a magnificent job in this respect. Despite the inability of contributors to meet deadlines, the IT skills of Maria Pesavento and Marcy Urken present a professional image of TBWN both to subscribers who number around 120 and the whole world on the web. Don't forget to take advantage of your two free adverts per year; remember the newsletter goes on the web and who knows who might find your business there?

In August, for the second year, we took up Atherton Turf Club's invitation to run Fashions in the Field and have an entertainment area in the clubhouse for their 'Girls' Day Out'. I thank the sub-committee of Vice-President Rhonda Sorensen, Louise Nielsen and Teresa Davis for the hours of effort they put in, especially in obtaining approx. \$3000 worth of sponsorship. Thanks also to everyone else who supported them. There were many more nominations this year and it looks like becoming an annual event for us; it is a great promotional opportunity for our network. We were also asked to organise the Fashions in the Field judging at the recent Atherton Cup Day and our thanks go to Jacquie Grimshaw and Leslie for representing us there.

Our first ever cancellation of a function was caused by the 'Highlight' or rather, the most memorable event of the year, a natural phenomenon named Cyclone Larry. We were all affected to various degrees; Membership Secretary Jeanette Suffield and Sue Fairley were so overwhelmed with the resulting workload that we regretfully had to accept their resignations from the committee. TBWN assisted members by swiftly passing on information and encouraging them to apply for assistance. April's talk by Deb Maguire from State Development assisted by Sue Fairley helped clarify still further the constantly evolving assistance packages.