

FRANKSTON BUSINESS NETWORK

Presidents Report 2016

I have just completed my first year as President of the Frankston Business Network, which has been a great privilege.

The Network, and its success, is a credit to the hardworking staff and members of the local business community who have supported this organisation over many years resulting in its place as one of the largest and most successful networking organisations in Victoria.

Over the past year, the FBN Board has consolidated its vision and strategy for the next 3-5 years with a focus on supporting local business and providing high quality networking activities to encourage and support the local business community. This has meant we have moved with the times, and continued to enhance our social media and online presence which assists with us utilise our limited resources in the most effective way, it is still a 'work in progress' so look out for further enhancements in 2017!

There are a lot of exciting developments happening in the greater Frankston area currently, with the Station renewal, track works, and many new building developments and opportunities for business in the area. FBN is continuing to work with Frankston City Council and other stakeholders to ensure that existing and up and coming businesses are afforded the opportunity to link and do business with existing operators. The Frankston Foundry is an exciting new initiative in Frankston, now supported by State Government funding, to support local entrepreneurs and start-ups with a funky working space, creating links and supports for those businesses.

The FBN Board has seen many changes this year with the departure of Andrew Kong during the year, however FBN did welcome three new Board members; Cameron Rambert, Cassie Antony and Donna Bauer, who have brought new and innovative ideas to the Board table which is fantastic for the organisation in the future. I would also like to acknowledge my Deputy Presidents: Tim Jerram and James Schaeffer who have been a great support to me during the year, Jason Beare for his financial expertise and Jonathon Reichwald, our co-opted Council member, for their collective contributions during the year. My thanks also to the hard working Marketing Committee, who work tirelessly to operationalise the vision of our organisation.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the work done by the 'face of FBN'; Karin Hann and Allison Besanko, for their continuing hard work and support provided to the Board and our membership. FBN is a small organisation which 'punches above its weight' in our field, mainly due to the hardworking staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to provide a quality product.

As a membership organisation, it is vital that we provide You, our members, with a superior product which enhances your business and fosters links with the local business community. I would like to thank each and every one of our members for their continuing support of the FBN – and I would ask you what you want, how we can improve on what we offer as we are here for You and your input is vital. Please let us know how we can further support you in the future.....

2017, already almost a quarter over, promises to be an exciting year and we look forward to supporting each and every one of our members in the forthcoming year.

Kath Ferry