



Balloon Artists and Suppliers Association – Australasia

A.C.N. 080 636 282

President

Gunter Blum

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President Report January 2010

Dear Members

Although I have only inherited the position of BASA A President due the resignation of Anthony Simpson last September it has none the less being a tumultuous period.

During ABC 07 on the Gold Coast I thought that Anthony as Sherriff had done an excellent job and as such gained my support after he had been elected BASA A president.

I do feel however that during his tenor he perhaps tried too hard to do and be involved in everything from taking over Balloon News to producing new articles of association and of course as convener of ABC 09 in Melbourne.

You must also remember that during this time he was still running his day time job/business.

As you will hear from our BASA A treasurer (Vivian from Handcraft and Flowers by Viv) ABC 09 did not run at a loss.

As some or all I hope are aware a new set of articles were presented by the then president Anthony but rejected at our ABC 09 meeting by 3 states votes to 2 . unfortunately some legal expenses were incurred as a result. Another revised version has now being drafted and with your help it can be finalised and put into practice. The purpose of this is to bring the articles into the 21st century (eg; using electronic media such as email) to correspond with members as well as making things more comprehensive.

At our BASA A committee meeting last September it was also decided to seek the help of some professional people In the field of Media liaison on a national level (considering the media and some individual flak that we have been receiving) Accreditation and a Business Administrator, These are to be paid positions, negotiations are under way and should be finalized very shortly.

Last November we also saw the opportunity for the movie” UP” promotion a lot of work by individuals went into this from NSW and Vic members as this was to be a nationally sponsored BASA A event. Unfortunately that did not eventuate however I do need to congratulate BASA Qld, SA and NSW and Victoria were involved Village Roadshow with members for pulling it off at short notice even though The Theatre companies left things to the last minute. It was a worthwhile exercise for the states in working together and much can be learnt for any future event. May I point out that BASA A members the states representatives NSW Qld SA and Victoria voted in favour of this promotion and as a majority (being voted on democratically) had hoped WA would follow suit which was not the case and led to my off the hip comments for which I have apologised.

ABC 09 also saw the proposal and introduction (by Margie Monk from It’s a Gas) of a BASA A national sponsorship for Breast and Prostate cancer. This will culminate in a presentation at ABC 2012 a TITANIC EVENT where hopefully we can present these worthwhile charities with a BIG FAT cheque as Margie says “ this will make them listen and take notice” . At present only those members with shop fronts have collection tins but I feel it is everyone’s obligation to support the cause.

ABC 2012 A TITANIC event is a must for all you balloonies and NOT to be missed trust me I was at the last one in 1995 Margie knows her business and knows what she is doing.

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Accreditation . At present Maureen Egan from Balloon Elegance (also BASA NSW president) has picked up the ball from the original concept proposed by Margie Monk and continued with implementing an accreditation system this has seen all NSW and Qld BASA members acquire module one and module two of the program (with a few exceptions of mod two due to distance and time restraints being a hands on situation) She is to be highly commended for this as otherwise we would have nothing. Robyn Scholes from Balloons by Robyn has been asked to look into accreditation (she is a qualified teacher) with the view of improving the current system and hopefully one day it being a recognized course within the education system.

Education Days . These have been held on a regular basis in NSW, Vic and Qld (which has two year year and is open to all plus a charity free décor class for members only every December) Further details may be offered by the various state representatives reports. I am hoping these to be expanded possibly on an interchange basis between states meaning a presenter from another states comes to your state for a class and vice versa. This would certainly benefit all especially WA and hopefully our balloonies across the sea in NZ. I hope these classes can be conducted without prejudice from any source.

We have addresses media issues in Qld and NSW and kept the flags flying for the industry. This really is a full time position.

I cannot stress enough that the past and present elected committee members to various positions do so in an honorary bases in other words they are not paid. So the next time if things aren't moving fast enough or to your immediate satisfaction put yourself in their shoes .These members have businesses and family like everyone so put up your hand and join the fray.

Last but not least I have spoken with Ray (he's our BASA A secretary remember) and begged him to reconsidered and restart Balloon News. He does an enormous job way beyond the call of duty does it for free at personal sacrifice and that of his business Balloon Boutique. After 13 years Ray has put up the pen or keyboard. We have a position for a talented Editor, writer, co ordinator to draft and communicate with our industry. For more information call Gunter 07 3876 0200

Thank you
Gunter Blum