

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Changes to governments in 2007/2008 provided IPAA with an opportunity to explore the role of public administration during periods of political transition. Distinguished former public servants Peter Shergold and Michael Keating candidly discussed the process of preparing for, and briefing, new governments. Senator John Faulkner outlined current machinery of government reforms in the federal sphere, and Premier John Brumby addressed IPAA about some of his government's priorities shortly after assuming the premiership.

This year, IPAA's own management was also in transition. We warmly welcomed Executive Director, Kathy Laster, and Program Director, Geraldine Kennett, who have already made great progress in implementing IPAA's ambitious Strategic Plan 2007/2010.

As our Financial Statements indicate, we made a surplus of almost \$100,000, notwithstanding significant upgrades to our infrastructure. Like most organisations however, we suffered a paper loss on our investments as a result of share market volatility. The Board's decision to invest our reserves in a diversified share portfolio should, however, provide a secure base for IPAA in the longer term.

Some major achievements of the 2007/2008 financial year include:

- Welcoming 21 new Corporate Members from across the public sector, including city councils, statutory agencies and not-for-profit organisations.
- Launch of Young IPAA (YIPAA), for people under 36 years
 of age, to promote generational renewal in the public sector.
 YIPAA is developing as a vibrant network with its own professional
 development program.
- The inaugural IPAA Oration was delivered to a capacity audience by influential Harvard professor, Mark Moore, on the topic of measuring public value.

- Introduction of seven new courses to enhance capacity in key sections of the public sector, including induction modules for senior people joining the public sector for the first time. Participation rates in our programs have increased by 30% or 1,200 people.
- Regional outreach with the inaugural Regional Budget Lunch in Geelong, sponsored by IPAA Gold Corporate Member, TAC.
 We plan to expand our regional offerings over the coming year.
- Partnerships and joint ventures are now a feature of IPAA's events
 calendar. For example, we supported the Bureau of Meteorology
 in its centenary lunch with the Hon Peter Garrett as keynote speaker
 and assisted the Victorian Auditor-General's Office with a breakfast
 for the National Auditors-General Conference. We also conduct
 a regular risk management course in conjunction with the Victorian
 Managed Insurance Authority.
- Development of the IPAA Indigenous Initiative, which aims to increase Indigenous participation in our program. An Indigenous steering committee has been formed to re-establish the Victorian Indigenous Public Sector Network.

In 2007/2008, we have advanced our mission to enhance the capacity, integrity and reputation of the public sector in Victoria. I would like to thank my hard working colleagues on the Board, as well as IPAA Fellows and the staff of IPAA Victoria for their dedication to this shared goal. Finally, I thank our members – both corporate and personal - for their ongoing commitment to their professional association.

Fran Thorn President

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