

**CASANZ SA / NT BRANCH**  
**BRANCH PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008**

During the past year the Branch Committee has endeavoured to reinvigorate Branch activities following the lull experienced in 2007. In that year for various reasons an Annual General Meeting was not held and an Extraordinary General Meeting was held early this year to discuss the kinds of things that might assist in developing a greater interest in CASANZ activities.

After a quiet start to the year, the Branch appears to have regained its past vitality. The key seems to lie in offering interesting technical meetings at a time that fits within office hours and where no significant fee is charged.

We have also found that with so much attention given to global climate change, there is clearly a need to diversify from the narrower focus upon local air pollution. To that end our December technical meeting is centred about climate change mitigation and minimisation strategies being implemented in South Australia.

As this will be my final report as the president, may I take the opportunity to thank the committee for its continued support throughout my presidency during the last four years.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008**

Apart from the Extraordinary General Meeting held early in the year, the primary event to date has been the technical meeting of 2 October on 'Wood Heaters and Air Quality'. This was presented in a seminar format, with the mid afternoon time slot proving very popular.

On 4 December, a seminar entitled 'The Carbon Economy and You' will be conducted by Mr Tim O'Loughlin of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, a representative of the Department of Transport Energy and Infrastructure and a legal practitioner from Minter Ellison lawyers.

#### **TRAINING**

The Committee has found that there has been very little support from South Australian Environmental Health Officers, environmental managers and the like for the official CASANZ training courses that command significant fees. While it is hoped that CASANZ will retain responsibility for offering technical training for air quality professionals, one needs to be realistic in recognising that very few CASANZ are prepared to travel to South Australia specifically for a course if there are opportunities in their own State. Accordingly, the Committee intends at least for the moment to focus on seminars that do not command a significant fee.

Having said that, one must keep in mind that the courses offered by CASANZ in the past have been a significant source of funds for the administration of CASANZ.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Branch membership has remained reasonably static with perhaps a slight fall in 2007. Once again the Branch Committee has indicated its intention through the seminar program to attract a broader membership, particularly a greater number of industry members. It is hoped that a broader focus on such issues as global climate change will assist this.

What still remains surprising to the committee is that, contrary to our expectations of a demand for education from local councils, there has not been an avalanche of interest from environmental health officers that we thought might follow the greater role those officers now have under the Environment Protection Act. Once again, it is hoped that the broader focus on climate change issues will attract those people.

## **BRANCH COMMITTEE**

We have some new blood and some reinvigorated blood on the incoming Branch Committee. We welcome Mr Johan Torringer to the Committee. Johan has proved already to be a great secretary. We welcome Phil Morgan back to the Committee following his resignation as Branch Secretary part way through 2007. We are hoping that in his retirement Phil will be able to give us some of his valuable time and the valuable insights that we have all appreciated so much in the past.

We would still encourage others to join the Committee as co-opted members, especially anyone who is willing to take on the office of education officer.

Finally, may I congratulate the incoming President on his appointment. He is no stranger to CASANZ. Mr Tom Whitworth, while also enjoying his retirement from the EPA, has certainly not retired from the world of air quality and conservation. Tom has always proved to be an energetic and energising advocate of the quality of our environment, especially air quality.

With Tom at the helm we look forward to an exciting and productive 2008 to 2009.