



Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand

Four pillars: Educators, Researchers, Policy makers, Practitioners



ICSB Affiliate Report – SEAANZ 2014

President Name: Professor Tim Mazzarol

Current Number of members: 100

Conference Schedule: ICSB 2014 World Conference, 11-14 June, Dublin, Ireland

SEAANZ 2014 27th Annual Conference, 17-18 July, Sydney Australia

Board Composition:

President (Executive Director)	Professor Tim Mazzarol	tim.mazzarol@uwa.edu.au
Treasurer	Ken Matheson	pquinnas@bigpond.net.au
Deputy Treasurer	Rosemarie Dawson	rosemarie@bpsl.co.nz
Director	Professor Delwyn Clark	dnclark@waikato.ac.nz
Director	Dr Bernice Kotey	bkotey@une.edu.au
Director	Ken Phillips	kenmargp@net2000.com.au
Director	Professor Dennis Foley	Dennis.Foley@newcastle.edu.au
Director	Dr Tui Mckewon	tui.mckeown@monash.edu
Director	Michael Brennan	coldunn1@gmail.com
Director	Daniel Boland	seegreen@live.com.au
Director	Dr Martina Battisti	M.Battisti@massey.ac.nz
SER Editor	Dr Kate Lewis	K.V.Lewis@massey.ac.nz
Secretary	Lotte Chow	seanz1@gmail.com

Upcoming board elections: November 2014

Highlights/new developments:

Membership:

As of June 2014 SEAANZ membership has reached 100 and we anticipate that this will rise further as we enter the new financial year due to the impact of our annual conference in July 2014, which has annual membership included for all delegates.

This is encouraging as the SEAANZ membership declined slightly during 2013 to around 89 following a peak in 2012 that was due to the co-hosting of the ICSB World Conference in Wellington, New Zealand.

Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand (SEAANZ)

Secretariat: c/- Lotte Chow, Top Education Institute

Suite1, Biomedical Building, 1 Central Ave,

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The membership of SEAANZ had fallen to 87 in 2011, which was something of a low point for the organisation. So we are encouraged by the positive trend. It has been our strategic goal to increase membership by 25% over the 2012 peak and hope to reach that goal by the end of the current financial year (FY2014/15).

Our membership is a good representation of the “four pillars”, with academics, government officials, professionals and small business operators included. Of note is that our membership, while small, includes a number of prominent or influential people from both Australia and New Zealand. This includes the Australian Small Business Commissioner (who is also a board member and director), the Deputy Commissioner of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), senior representatives from the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), plus senior academics from universities in both countries.

SEAANZ is widening his influence into these communities as part of its aim to provide a forum for thought leadership in relation to research, education, policy and practice for small enterprise. For example, we will be awarding the Australian Federal Minister for Small Business, The Hon Bruce Billson MP, an honorary membership of SEAANZ at our annual conference in July.

Conferences:

On 11-12 July 2013 the 26th Annual SEAANZ Conference was held in Sydney. This was well attended with over 60 delegates, and attracted a good cross-section of academic, government and industry representatives from across Australia and New Zealand. A total of 22 academic papers were presented and a series of policy panels were held that had senior government and industry representatives.

The 2014 27th Annual SEAANZ Conference will take place from 17-18 July in Sydney. Currently we have an excellent line up of keynote speakers including a range of government and corporate participants including: the Australian Federal Minister for Small Business, the New South Wales Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Commissioners from the Australian and New Zealand Productivity Commissions, ACCC and all federal and state Small Business Commissioners. Also attending are keynote speakers from Canon, CSIRO, National Australia Bank, Optimum Consulting, La Salle Matrix Thinking and senior academics from Macquarie University, University of Technology Sydney and University of Waikato and other institutions.

The conference will also see the launch of an annual SEAANZ research book series. This will be officially launched by the Australian Small Business Minister Bruce Billson and contains a cross-section of chapters representing all ‘four pillars’ of the SEAANZ community.

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Corporate Governance:

At the 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of SEAANZ it was agreed for the organisation to abandon its status as a not-for-profit Association registered with the State of South Australia, and move towards a corporate model. This process has now completed and SEAANZ is now registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as a not-for-profit company under the Australian Corporations law.

This change in corporate governance enables SEAANZ to have more flexibility in its operations, in particular how it deals with financial transactions, and how it can deliver its services across all states of Australia and overseas within New Zealand and the wider region. The corporate status also means that the former members of the SEAANZ Executive Committee are now company directors and as such they have legal duties and responsibilities under the federal corporations' laws.

SEAANZ remains a not-for-profit organisation with its constitution amended only slightly from what it had operated with for the previous 27 years. However, this change of governance status makes SEAANZ a more modern and 'business like' organisation that we feel is better placed to take on the challenges that we anticipate for the future.

Financial Management:

During FY2013/14 SEAANZ had its books audited and moved its accounts onto 'cloud-based' accounting software via Xero. The financial management of SEAANZ also saw the creation of a formal structure led by board member and Treasurer Ken Matheson, a qualified accountant. At time of writing, SEAANZ had just completed a review of its banking arrangements and had migrated all of its accounts from the Commonwealth and ANZ banks to community owned bank Bendigo Bank. This will enable SEAANZ to establish online banking and related services plus the ability to operate a credit card and online payments system. As at June 2014 the financial situation of SEAANZ was sound.

Website, Newsletter and Database:

In August 2013 SEAANZ launched its newly rebuilt website as well as a new online newsletter and membership database management system. The new website provides us with significantly more flexibility in managing our online communications and contains a full bibliographic index system into which a range of documents will be stored. This will include copies of past SEAANZ conference papers that will be searchable by members using the bibliographic system.

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SEAANZ also manages a LinkedIn group site and a Facebook page. At time of writing it had 240 members on the LinkedIn group site. Future planning will seek to leverage our social media systems more for recruitment and retention of members.

Sponsorship:

Top Executive Education Pty Ltd renewed their sponsorship agreement for another 12 months, which included cash support and the provision of our secretarial and administrative support function. This is housed at their facilities in the Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh in Sydney.

At time of writing we were also receiving institutional supporter memberships from the University of New England, University of Technology Sydney, ACCC and Queensland University of Technology. We have also been negotiating sponsorship opportunities with several corporate groups and hope to formalise these arrangements in the next few months as we move towards the July annual conference.

Our sponsorship program is targeting the formation of longer term strategic alliances with industry and university members who wish to leverage the unique position that SEAANZ offers as a neutral, non-political 'thought leader' within the small business area.

Small Enterprise Research: Journal of SEAANZ:

The journal of SEAANZ, "*Small Enterprise Research*" (SER) continued to be published in 2013. A special issue on family business was published and a further special edition on Occupational Safety and Health in SMEs is scheduled for publication in 2014.

Our contract with the existing publisher, e-Content Management, is due to expire in August 2015 and we are currently negotiating with Cambridge Journals about moving the journal to their stable. It is our aim over the next 18 months to replace the existing publisher and to reposition the journal as a leading peer reviewed publication in the small business area, with a particular focus on small business policy, education and practice.

Key problems/challenges:

The main challenges facing SEAANZ in FY2013/14 were related to the need to update the membership of the Association and bring its systems (e.g. financial, website, database, and newsletter) up to date. The website is now completed as is the database and newsletter. Our financial system is also now modernised and we anticipate finalisation of the online banking and payments system within the next six months.

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Key challenges for 2014/15 will be to continue to grow our membership while retaining our existing members. We also need to form long term alliances with key industry partners for both sponsorship and collaborative research and policy work.

Issues that require the Boards action:

A key issue that SEAANZ needs to have addressed by the ICSB Board is the future direction of the ICSB and how this aligns with the strategic vision of SEAANZ. Of particular importance is the establishment of the Asia Council of Small Business (ACSB) and the plans that might exist for this to grow over time.

SEAANZ is very supportive of the ACSB and welcomes the opportunity to form a coherent Asian-focused affiliate structure of this nature. Both Australia and New Zealand, while not Asian countries, are economically and politically closely engaged with the Asian region. We therefore see significant opportunities for collaboration with other ICSB affiliates via the ACSB.

However, there is a need to allocate our limited resources to the ACSB, which is now holding another annual conference alongside our own and the ICSB World Conference. This has some significant resource implications that need to be considered.

Respectfully submitted

Professor Tim Mazzarol
President of SEAANZ

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