



Queensland Private Enterprise Centre

2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

QPEC Annual Report

Year Ending 31 December 2020

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Susan Rix, AM (President)
Franki Ganter (Chair)
Jane Carroll (Treasurer)
Chris Skelton (Secretary)
Penny Ellenger
Allan Pidgeon AM
Jamie Forster
Debbie Perrett
Bob Kelsey

Dear Member

The Executive Committee is pleased to present this Annual Report for Queensland Private Enterprises Inc (QPEC) for the financial year ending 2020.

With the impact of COVID-19, last year was a challenging year for QPEC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During the year some changes occurred in the Executive Committee:

- Elisha Caffery resigned as QPEC Treasurer and Jane Carroll was appointed to replace Elisha in December 2020. The Committee would like to thank Elisha for her valuable contribution to the organization and welcome Jane to the role.
- Existing Executive Committee member, Chris Skelton was appointed to the role of Secretary in December 2020. The Committee would like to thank Chris for kindly taking on this role.
- Bob Kelsey (our much-valued Education Coordinator) was elected to the Committee in December 2020. The Committee would like to welcome Bob.

ECOMAN OPERATIONAL REVIEW

During the 2020 year, only two normal programs were delivered compared with 16 in 2019. While the declines in previous years in the number of programs was due to a number of factors including the changes to school curriculums with the introduction of ATAR for Years 10 and 11, the associated pressure on teachers not to release students for excursions, together with changes in personnel in some schools, and, the cost of the programs, the very low number of programs in 2020 was solely due to COVID-19 restrictions. The only 'normal' programs were two 3-day programs completed for Yeronga State High School (sponsored by Brisbane Mid-City Rotary Club) and Ormiston College and run on their school premises.

Another impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been that our generous venue providers were unable to provide venues for the ECOMAN program because of COVID-19 restrictions. While this was not an issue in 2020 because very few schools were willing to do the program, it continues to adversely impact our ability to secure venues for programs in 2021.

Despite these challenges, an exciting new program was introduced in 2020, being the development of a whole-of-class program for Brisbane Girls Grammar Grade 10 Economics students. This involved running 5 simultaneous programs at the school for approx. 115-120 students. The program ran over a number of weeks (one/two days per week) in August and September with the teachers taking on part of the role of program facilitators. Given that it was an experimental program, it was provided for a price of \$4000. A measure of the program's success is that in 2021 Brisbane Girls Grammar School has signed up for another event with 170 students. The Executive Committee would like to thank the school for their much-valued support. We are excited about this new program. We are excited about this program and would like other schools to consider a similar approach.

The 2019 Australian Curriculum is meant to sharpen and increase students' knowledge of economics and business and includes revised courses in Business, Accounting and Economics. The ECOMAN program is complementary to the new curriculum content. In addition, our program contains some content not covered by the curriculum.

The relationships that develop between QPEC and schools particularly between our Education Coordinator and facilitators and the school Heads of Departments underlies the fact that many schools each year send their new year 10, 11 and a few year 12 students to experience the ECOMAN program year after year. These teachers do this because they see the practical benefits of the ECOMAN program in further explaining commercial and business concepts and realities to students.

The Executive Committee receives many testimonials from students, and their parents, after they have completed the program and it is pleasing for the Committee to read these as they underline the reason why the program is so successful and valued by the students and teachers.

SPONSORSHIP

As reported last year the trustees for the Viertel Charitable Foundation have advised that funding will not continue after the end of 2020. The Foundation has supported ECOMAN programs since 2009 and the Committee thanks them for their valued support.

Mid-City Rotary Club sponsor the Yeronga State High School program and the Committee thanks them for their ongoing support.

Our venue sponsors who provide their CBD board rooms and meeting rooms (COVID-19 restrictions permitting) where the programs are delivered deserve our thanks once again. Several venues provided their facilities on more than one occasion.

These venues play an important part in the ECOMAN experience for the students, where for two or three days they become directors and make decisions that will impact on the business of their company. They also enjoy the 'vibe' of being part of a big city office.

Sponsors are critical to the on-going viability of the ECOMAN programs. Currently programs in Brisbane cost a little over \$1,000 per day to run (on average) and overheads are about \$24,000 per year. Many schools find \$1000 per day too big and ask adding further on top of that to cover overheads would mean we would have less schools to spread the overhead across. While QPEC has sufficient funds to continue operating in this manner for some years, the Executive Committee, with the support of Queensland University of Technology (facilitated by Executive Committee member, Jamie Forster), is undertaking a review of the current state and future directions of QPEC.

Tabled below is the full calendar year of programs conducted in 2020

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Due to COVID only 3 schools participated in the ECOMAN Program IN 2020.

Dates	School	Venue
6, 11, 20 & 25 August 2020	Brisbane Girls Grammar School In-house	Brisbane Girls Grammar School
12, 13 & 14 October 2020	Yeronga State High School	Yeronga State High School
30 November & 1 December 2020	Ormiston College	Ormiston College

SPONSORSHIP FOR VENUES FOR 2021

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

In May 2021 Penny Ellenger, QPEC Executive Committee member, caught up with Jennelyn Hargreaves, Segment Manager for Young Chartered Accountants and Provisional Members, representing Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ), who have been a long-term supporter of the ECOMAN program, through their provision of venue support for the delivery of programs. CA ANZ have supported the program with venue space since 2009.

“The ECOMAN Program participants represent the huge potential that exists for Queensland’s high school students to become the future leaders and decision-makers of business and enterprise in Queensland,” commented Jenn. “For CA ANZ, this is a great connection for us to engage with promising students who might be interested in a career in business. It’s also incredibly heartening to see these talented individuals work through a fantastic program which opens their eyes to the kinds of real-world decisions enterprises face every day.”

“We are honoured to be able to support the QPEC/ECOMAN endeavour in this way, as it is in perfect alignment with our focus on supporting the Difference Makers of tomorrow”.

In 2021, CA ANZ will be hosting the majority of ECOMAN programs in their offices in Brisbane’s CBD, a beautiful venue that is deep in the heart of the city’s bustling business district – a location where any high school student will find it easy to connect with the buzz and beating heart of enterprise in Queensland. This is an enormous commitment of support by CA ANZ, and a gesture that is greatly appreciated by the QPEC Executive Committee, and also by all the schools involved.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Executive Committee's thanks and appreciation go to Education Coordinator Bob Kelsey and facilitators Debbie Perrett, Amanda Barnes and Peter Hondroudakis. This team delivers the programs and interacts with students to impart important messages about the commercial realities of running a business and the role of private enterprise. They are the face of ECOMAN.

