



Queensland Private Enterprise Centre

2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

Mission

Contribute to Australia's prosperity by promoting an understanding of the virtues of free-market economy and private enterprise through education, innovative research and engagement with the community.

Vision

QPEC runs an innovative and high-quality education program aimed at providing participants with an understanding of and insight into Australia's free market economy. We partner with trusted institutions to make the program available to communities regardless of location or socio-economic profile.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Franki Ganter (Acting President)
Franki Ganter (Chair)
Chris Skelton (Secretary)
Emily Blauberg (Treasurer)
Penny Ellenger
Allan Pidgeon AM
Jamie Forster
Debbie Perrett
Bob Kelsey (Observer)
Stuart Coward (Executive Director)

Dear Members

The Executive Committee is pleased to present this Annual Report for Queensland Private Enterprise Centre Inc (**QPEC**) for the year ending 31 December 2023.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During the year the following changes occurred on the Executive Committee:

- Mrs Debbie Perrett was re-elected to the committee at QPEC's Annual General Meeting held in June 2023
- Ms Franki Ganter was re-elected to the committee at QPEC's Annual General Meeting held in June 2023.
- Mr Chris Skelton was re-elected as Secretary at QPEC's Annual General Meeting held in June 2023.
- Ms Susan Rix retired as President of QPEC at the end of the Annual General Meeting held in June 2023. Ms Franki Ganter was elected as Acting President of QPEC at the same Annual General Meeting until a replacement candidate is identified for the position. The Executive Committee is in the process of identifying an appropriate candidate to put forward to members for appointment to the position.

ECOMAN OPERATION REVIEW

During the 2023 year, 18 programs were delivered (to students from 35 schools) including two new programs at Townsville and Cairns. This is an increase of 3 programs on the total number of 15 programs delivered in 2022. Not only is it very rewarding to be able to deliver the ECOMAN program in regional areas but it is very pleasing to see QPEC extend its reach to these regional areas in Queensland. This is due to the dedicated efforts of our Education Coordinator, Debbie Perrett, and program facilitators. The Executive Committee extends its thanks to them for their continuing commitment to delivering the program.

The Brisbane Girls' Grammar School (BGGs) students again participated in the ECOMAN Program in 2023. It involved running 8 simultaneous programs at the school for approximately 170 students. The program ran over a number of weeks (one and/or two days per week) in July/August with the BGGs teachers involved in delivering parts of the program normally delivered by the facilitators. Unfortunately the program was not as successful as in previous years due to a number of issues encountered by the school during the delivery of the program, which were beyond the control of the school and QPEC. Unfortunately, these factors impacted on the student experience of the program. As a consequence, BGGs has made the decision not to deliver the program in this way in 2024 but will still be involved in the combined two day program with Brisbane Grammar School. A huge thank you to Bob Kelsey for the work he did in processing the results for classes – which proved to be a challenging exercise given the circumstances which presented during the course of the program.

The relationships that develop between QPEC and schools particularly between our Education Coordinator and facilitators and the school Heads of Department underlies the fact that many schools each year send their Year 10 and 11 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.

Feedback from students and teachers after they have completed the program underline the reason why the program is so successful and valued by the students and teachers.

SPONSORSHIP AND OTHER SUPPORT

Funds from The Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation continued in 2023 to support the delivery of the ECOMAN program to students. The Foundation has supported ECOMAN programs since 2009 and the Executive Committee thanks them for their valued support. This funding has come to a natural end and alternative ways of funding the work of QPEC is being sought.

Mid-City Rotary Club again sponsored the Yeronga State High School program and the committee thanks them for their ongoing support. Mid City Rotary Club ceased operating in 2023 and made a donation of \$6000, as part of the distribution of funds upon cessation, to support the delivery of the ECOMAN program to Yeronga State High School for another two years.

QPEC also wishes to thank Findex (Townsville), Ultons (Bundaberg) and the Business Liasion Association together with BDO and Grant Thornton (Cairns) for sponsoring the regional programs.

Our venue sponsors provide their CBD board rooms and meeting rooms where the

programs are delivered. They too deserve our thanks once again. Two venues provided their facilities on more than one occasion: CA ANZ and Grant Thornton, to whom we owe a special thanks. The other venues QPEC wish to thank are: CPA, Moore Australia, Ultons (Bundaberg), BDO, Findex Townsville and James Cook University, City Campus.

These venues play an important part in the ECOMAN experience for the students, where for two or three days the students become directors of a fictional company 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 \$1300 per day (two day program) or \$1950 (three day program) too big an ask and 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 the short term, the Executive Committee, has been considering ways of ensuring the sustainability of the program over the medium to longer term. For more on this, see the section below on the 'Future of QPEC'.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS 2023

Dates	School	Venue
2 and 3 March	Brigidine College and Ambrose Treacy College	Ambrose Treacy College
20 and 21 April	Townsville schools (5 schools)	Findex
27 and 28 April	Villonova College	CA ANZ
10 – 12 May	Ferny Grove State High School	CA ANZ
23 and 24 May	Cairns schools (5 schools)	James Cook University
20 and 22 June	Indooroopilly State High School	Grant Thornton
17 and 18 July	Mansfield State High School	Moore Australia
24 and 25 July	Brisbane Grammar Schools (2 schools)	Grant Thornton
July/August	Brisbane Girls' Grammar School	In House
31 July and 1 August	The Gap SHS	CA ANZ
3 and 4 August	Browns Plains State High School	CA ANZ
8, 10 and 11 August	Citipointe Christian College	BDO
11 and 12 September	Rosedale State High School	Moore Australia
13-15 September	Yeronga State High School	Grant Thornton
4 and 5 October	Northside Christian College	In house
11, 12 and 13 October	Bundaberg schools (5 schools)	Ultons
26 and 27 October	4 schools program	Moore Australia
2 and 3 November	St Peters Lutheran College Indooroopilly	In House

FUTURE OF QPEC

As part of the work strategic planning work undertaken by the Executive Committee to ensure the long term sustainability of QPEC, a search was undertaken for the recruitment of a candidate to fill the part-time role of Executive Director. One of the key areas of focus of that role is to seek to expand QPEC's funding base.

In February 2024 the Executive Committee was delighted to appoint Stuart Coward as QPEC's part-time Executive Director. Stuart has certainly hit the ground running and is diligently seeking future funding to secure the delivery of our wonderful ECOMAN Program to school students throughout Queensland.

Stuart has an extensive background in business, both in private and community organisations, as well as deep connections in corporate and government networks. He is leveraging these connections to focus on funding support.

It has become evident that future financial contributions to QPEC is likely to come from the beneficiaries of the ECOMAN Program. These beneficiaries include higher educational institutions, which see potential in future student enrolments, and financial and accounting firms that are always searching for new and enthusiastic employees.

Already, Stuart has submitted several proposals for future funding partnerships and we look forward to reporting to members on the progress of those proposals over the balance of this year.

The Executive Committee is delighted to have Stuart on board and wishes to thank him for his efforts to date in helping to not only secure the current financial position of QPEC but also lay the groundwork for our future growth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Executive Committee's thanks and appreciation go to Education Coordinator Debbie Perrett and facilitators Amanda Barnes, Kaylene Holley and Peter Hondroudakis, Doneene King and Debby Pidgeon. 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.

For and on behalf of the QPEC Executive Committee



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Franki Ganter
Chairman