

## **QUEENSLAND BUSHFOOD ASSOCIATION**

### **Chairperson's Report 2007 AGM**

**Held at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 814 Rode Road, Chermside West,  
Friday, 3 August 2007**

Firstly I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their guidance and support throughout the year.

I wish to give a special thanks to Anne Osborne, who as you know, resigned from the position as our long serving Treasurer earlier this year. Anne is one of our original founding members and with her expert knowledge drafted our Constitution. We wish Anne well in her future personal and business endeavours. I ask you to join me in congratulating Ann for her much appreciated efforts.

The Bushfood industry and appreciation of Native Foods continues to grow and in my opinion, at a much faster rate than previously. From the efforts of a partnership of both industry and Government agencies we have seen the long awaited birth of the Australian Native Food Industries Limited (ANFIL) peak body group, with one of our members, Doug Brownlow, on the Board. Another of our members, me, is the QBA representative on the Queensland Government's Protected Plants Ministerial Advisory Committee, and I might add, the only person on this Committee who is lobbying for the interests of the Bushfood industry.

Many of our members, as individuals, have gone from strength to strength over the past twelve months and in doing so, all have raised the profile and awareness of the Industry and the QBA.

Among our membership we have such a wealth of knowledge and experience, from scientists, chefs, manufacturers, marketers, propagators, growers etc. with a willingness to share that expertise, that we are in a unique position, if we choose, to take a more proactive role in influencing outcomes within and the direction of the industry.

I feel we need to raise our profile much higher in the 'Bushfood' community and be able to offer more to members both existing and future. I don't think we can achieve this with the small gene pool of committee members that we have at present, however talented they may be. We may need sub-committees to deal with the communications between members and the outside world. Our website and newsletter, both under-utilised, can be fantastic resources and they both need input from members to make them work for us to their full potential.

Even though QBA has done and is doing some great work, there is the perception out there in some quarters that we are just a group of Bushfood enthusiasts that get together occasionally for a cuppa and a chat. We do need to raise our profile and we as members need to more fully support our Association, we can only get out of QBA, what we put in. Lets make it great.

I thank you, Graeme White