



**NSW**

## Presidents Report 31 October 2008

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a very interesting and eventful year for ASSID NSW.

Following the Annual ASSID Conference in Freemantle a number of people expressed interest in re-invigorating ASSID NSW. It fell to Ron Joachim who had already revitalised the Queensland Branch to set about pulling these fragmented people together to commence the re-birth of ASSID NSW.

A number of those interested parties met in January of this year together with Tony Tinlan [President], Trish Wetton [Treasurer] and Ron Joachim. At this meeting Tony Tinlan stepped down as President, Jennifer Avery resigned as Secretary whilst those present were coopted on to the committee. Trish Wetton remained as Treasurer, Dennis Robson was appointed as Secretary and Tina Purden took on responsibility for ASSID NSW contribution to IDA.

As the only fully paid up member of ASSID present - all others were members via their various organisations - I was the only person eligible for election as President and therefore became so rather by default. I am pleased to add that since then Vivienne Riches has been appointed to the position of Vice President to give me much needed support and mentorship.

The major event for the year has been the 'Hot Topics' day held in May of this year in conjunction with Disability Professionals NSW. This also saw the launch in NSW of the ASSID 'Code of Ethics' and managed to attract over 100 attendees. The day covered a range of topics from 'Nurturing Professionalism', through to 'Active Support' thence on to 'Creative Ageing' and was a huge success - with the exception of the coffee! The day was organised in just three months from its inception and all the credit must go to my fellow Board members who came forward in January with the first full meeting held in February 2008 where the decision was taken to run this day.

We do not intend to rest on our laurels and are already making plans for a number of events in 2009 which will include a 'State Conference' and more 'Hot Topics'. Again this relies on your committee who all volunteer and do this in addition to existing workloads, families and busy lives. **Thank you** seems hardly adequate.

I have grown to enjoy my short term as President albeit feeling a little fraudulent regarding my tenure of the position. All of us look forward to holding office in 2009 by election from our members rather than by cooption and promise that if elected we will serve the membership to the best of our ability.

Finally it is with great sadness that I announce that Trish Wetton will be resigning as Treasurer due to a considerable number of other ongoing commitments. Trish has been part of, and a dedicated contributor to, ASSID NSW since the 1980's she will be sorely missed. We are pleased to note however that she will remain as part of the committee where her valuable insight, experience, and expertise will provide much needed support to us all.

Thank you all - ASSID NSW is fired up and ready to go.

Tony Harman, President ASSID NSW