

Queensland Leaders unite

The collaborative nature of the Queensland Leaders program is one of the best examples of Queensland's advantageous business environment in action. Queensland Leaders partner and sponsor companies are helping to foster the next generation of international companies based in Queensland. It is a unique venture in which leaders of successful Queensland companies such as Super Cheap Auto Group, Colorado Group, Domino's Pizza Enterprises, Mincom, RP Data and Macarthur Coal help to mentor the program's up-and-coming member companies. The 2008/09 members have just 'graduated' and the drive for members of the 2009/10 series will be launched on August 25.



Treasurer Andrew Fraser – 2008 launch.

Queensland business icon, Ben Macdonald, said it simply at the 'graduation' event for Queensland Leaders companies recently.

"Queenslanders always come together. We're different in the way we do business together and we are far more successful because of it," he told the business leaders gathered at the graduation dinner.

Mr Macdonald – one of Queensland's most prolific business leaders, holding chairmanships of AP Eagers, FKP and Reef Casino Trust – was there as a retiring foundation advisory board member of Queensland Leaders. Retiring he may have been, but typical of the spirit of the organisation he admitted he would stay engaged with Queensland Leaders.

Some were there to celebrate the culmination of their company's time with the Queensland Leaders 2008/09 program. Other business leaders were

there to celebrate the work and camaraderie they had built up with the Queensland Leaders members over the past year – much of which had led to positive business outcomes that would otherwise not have materialised.

Some of these examples, outlined by members, included vital advice from Export Solutions that helped solve a serious export challenge; assistance with human resources issues for a rapidly growing company; introductions that brought unanticipated business opportunities; advice from Millhouse IAG on a capital raising program that overcame a serious product development hurdle; and many examples of advice from partners and sponsors that enabled members to meet current economic and management challenges.

In his address to the Queensland Leaders gathering, former State Treasurer, Deputy Premier and University of Queensland chancellor, Sir Llew Edwards, urged the group to keep striving and innovating and maintain their "uniquely Queensland spirit".

Member companies of the Queensland Leaders 2008/2009 series are listed below.

- Full report www.businessacumen.biz

BIOGLOBAL

CEO Ken Ingbritsen said BioGlobal aims to become a profitable global bio-science company by developing biochemical technologies for the major pest management market opportunities created by the trend to clean, green and naturally-based products.

BioGlobal's products fall into two green technology platforms, mating disruption (MD), which is the use of pheromone chemicals (insect smells) in dispensers to disrupt themating habits of insects; and attract and kill (A&K), the use of pheromones and kairomones (plant smells) to attract insects to insecticide-laced baits or mass traps. www.bioglobal.com.au

CLINICAL TRIALS GROUP

This group of collaborating companies, administered by Queensland Clinical Trials Network (QCTN) CEO Mario Pennisi, is made up of QCTN, Clinical Network Services (CNS), Mater Medical Research Institute (MMRI), The Wesley Research Institute and TetraQ. www.qctn.com.au

CONICS

Conics is a leading development consultancy focused on urban growth and infrastructure, headed up by CEO Peter James. Conics helps clients meet the challenges of urban growth and infrastructure delivery through a unique combination of economics, advisory, design, planning and survey-

ing services. Conics' development intelligence and services are delivered by 650 employees from 12 metropolitan and regional offices across eastern Australia. www.conics.com.au

CUTTING EDGE

Cutting Edge provides world class post production services to the Australian and international film and television industry. Renowned for its work in reality television, a field in which it leads the world, Cutting Edge has grown its team from three employees in 1992 to over 150 fulltime employees and 500 part-time employees. Cutting edge director Matthew Lawson said through a strategy of continuous reinvestment in its technology, facilities and staff, the business has grown into the largest post production facility in Queensland and the most diversified in Australia. The company has won over 20 international awards for world-class television commercials. www.cuttingedge.com.au

DE VRYER & ASSOCIATES

De Vryer & Associates (DV&A) is a high-net worth financial planning practice that specialises in the administration and management of self managed superannuation funds. Managing director Jonathan Bonnett said De Vryer's management team is visionary and enthusiastic with an excellent blend of practical and creative skills. www.dvanda.com.au

GILMORE ENGINEERS, E3K

Gilmore Engineers germinated in 1986, when Duncan Gilmore at the age of 35 began offering engineering consulting services beyond his role as a senior lecturer at The University of Queensland. In 1993, Dr Gilmore left the university and formed Gilmore Engineers Pty Ltd. The brand name 'e3k' – derived from 'engineering3000: new technologies for the new millennium' – was registered and trademarked in 2001 to operate as the New Product Development Division of Gilmore Engineers. The 'big picture' vision for e3k is to become a global player in the development of intellectual property for an increasingly technological world.

www.gilmore-engineers.com
www.e3k.com

GROUND BREAKING INNOVATIONS

Ground Breaking Innovations Pty Ltd (GBI) has a unique business in the mining industry. CEO Graham Lumley said GBI started in 1999 with one employee and now has 20. Turnover has increased at a compound rate of 24 percent. He said the mining industry is data and information rich but knowledge poor. GBI recognised this problem and started analysing dragline data to bridge this

gap, steadily adding other machinery. GBI has headquarters in Brisbane with an office in Witbank (South Africa) and clients in North America, South America, Africa and Australia. www.gbi.net.au

GROWGREEN

Grow Green Technologies aims to promote environmentally sustainable and cost effective farm production processes based on the premise that improved plant yield and quality is built on the foundation of improved soil health. Grow Green manufactures a unique range of liquid (*ProfertR*) and solid (*Soil RevivaR*) fertilisers based on naturally sourced nutrients recovered from predominantly marine organic waste, manager Robert Smith said. www.growgreen.com.au

HEAT TREATMENT

Heat Treatment Australia is an innovative company offering metal heat treatment services to the engineering and tool making industries in Australia. General manager Karen Stanton, said the Queensland owned family business has operated since 1979 and grown from a one man show to a staff of over 50 located at three branches – Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. Heat Treatment's three plants include some of the most sophisticated thermal processing equipment currently available. www.heat.com.au

INFINITY DESIGN

Infinity Design Development Pty Ltd is a product development company specialising in industrial design and the development of innovative products for manufacture. Managing director Glenn Bevan said development projects in the consultancy environment range from consumer, industrial and medical electronic products, through to sports equipment, homewares and food packaging. Infinity Design has an export focus and a varied client base including Queensland Rail, Australia Post, Tabcorp, and Rio Tinto Iron Ore. www.infinitydesign.com.au

IRECKON

Information services company, ireckon, has been developing end-to-end applications and services using internet technologies since 1998. CEO Darryl King said ireckon aims to help business use its information profitably utilising technology. www.ireckon.com

IRONBARK SOFTWARE

Founded in 1978 by managing director Chris Findlater, Ironbark Software supplies ERP solutions to clients in fresh produce, timber, supply chain, fuel, manufacturing, building and construction, project management, wholesale distribution and retail industries. Today Ironbark Software is operating in over 300 sites in Australia, New Zealand and China. www.ironbark.com.au

LESLIE CONSULTING

Leslie Consulting (LC) is a mechanical engineering consultancy which, since

inception in 1989, has endeavoured to provide complete engineering solutions in an holistic manner, to a variety of clients and industry sectors. Director Bruce Leslie said in particular, LC's development and commercialisation of monitoring systems for draglines are at the forefront of data acquisition technology and fatigue cycle analysis. Located in Brisbane (head office), Mackay and Johannesburg, the company employs over 40 professional engineering staff. www.lc.com.au

MAP CREATIVE

Map creative caters to the growing demand for custom media publishing. Managing director Carl Lindgren said Map creative is the link to the world of traditional publishing and online media. Mr Lindgren said the map creative team is made up of a creative group of passionate dreamers, editors, art directors, positive media activists, designers, illustrators, copywriters, project managers, and a dedicated sales team, all committed to delivering inspirational solutions both in editorial content and advertising. www.mapcreative.com.au

MIPAC

MIPAC provides expertise and solutions to optimise plant wide process control and enable operational excellence for its clients. Managing director Eddie DeRivera said MIPAC had a proven track record and strong know-how in industries that require continuous control for complex, business critical operations, such as mineral processing, metal production, oil and gas and pulp and paper. The group has delivered solutions for more than 100 projects around the world. www.mipac.com.au

PERFECT POTION

Perfect Potion's pure plant preparations are designed to care for customers' wellbeing, delight their senses and enhance their environment. "We provide people with a nurturing environment to assist them in discovering their harmony and balance – this is the Perfect Potion experience," said Perfect Potion managing director Salvatore Battaglia. Perfect Potion has recently become the first company in Australia to achieve Certified Natural Cosmetic status for its skincare range. www.perfectpotion.com.au

PRIESTLEY'S GOURMET DELIGHTS

Priestley's Gourmet Delights manufactures a range of gateaux, tarts, slices and other tempting products as well as being a distributor for a range of savoury products for the domestic and international food service market. The company currently distributes its range of products nationally and also exports to New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Russia, with key accounts in the cafe, restaurant, quick service restaurant, catering and institutional markets.

The company spread its manufacturing and distribution capability into New Zealand with its acquisition of Melba Foods in November 2006. Managing director Andrew Beohm said Priestley's has also recently commenced representing a gourmet savoury range. www.priestleys-gourmet.com.au

URBAN ART PROJECTS

Urban Art Projects (UAP) designs and fabricates site-specific artwork and custom street furniture for architectural and landscape environments. "We ensure artwork outcomes support and enhance design aesthetics by managing the design process through concept, documentation and construction," said principal Daniel Tobin. UAP offers a unique turn-key approach to commissioning large-scale artworks, providing low-risk solutions for clients. www.uap.com.au

XENOME

Xenome is a biotechnology company that is focused on the discovery and development of peptide-based therapeutics. The company's lead product, Xen2174, is a novel *conopeptide analogue* for the treatment of severe pain, according to CEO Ian Nisbet. In 2007, Xenome and Amylin Pharmaceuticals entered into a partnership to screen Xenome's library for new drug candidates against metabolic disease targets. www.xenome.com

YOUNGCARE

Youngcare's goal is to provide a relevant and dignified lifestyle for young Australians with high care needs, according to director David Conry. With the assistance of the community, government and business, Youngcare aims to create change by building a number of purpose designed apartments across Australia for young people requiring full time nursing care. In addition, Youngcare will look toward providing other care alternatives such as holiday accommodation, respite care and in-home assistance. www.youngcare.com.au

QUEENSLAND LEADERS

Queensland Leaders Partners:

ABC Learning, Alchemia, AP Eagers, Australian Agricultural Company, Colorado Group, Domino's Pizza, FKP, Industrea, Macarthur Coal, Mincom, Queensland Gas Company, Reef Casino, RP Data, Super Cheap Auto & BCF, and Trinity.

Sponsors: ABN Amro Morgans, Aon, BBS, *Business Acumen Queensland* magazine, Chandler Macleod, Export Solutions, Fisher Adams Kelly, Gibsons JBS, Grant Thornton, IBM, McMahon Clarke Legal, Millhouse IAG, Suncorp, TT Group Telstra, University of Queensland, and Wesley Corporate Health. www.queenslandleaders.com.au ■