



SEAANZ 25th Anniversary Booklet

The Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand was founded in 1987 and over the last 25 years has been Australia and New Zealand's premier SME research body with regular and significant contributions toward SME policy and educational development.

The SEAANZ journal, *Small Enterprise Research*, commenced publication in 1992 and in the same year SEAANZ was affiliated to the International Council for Small Business (ICSB). Our New Zealand chapter was created in 1991, and incorporated in 1994.

The first SEAANZ conference was held in 1988 in Sydney and has been conducted every year since often in conjunction with the annual conference of its international mother the International Council for Small Business.

The core activities of SEAANZ continue to be the conduct of an annual conference and publication of our journal *Small Enterprise Research*. And from time to time SEAANZ has had a seat on national SME forums making contributions to the national debate over the place and importance of the SME sector.

Welcome from the President – Brian Gibson

June 2012

Dear Reader

Welcome to this 25th Anniversary history of SEAANZ. It's hard to believe that it has been 25 years since a group assembled by Geoff Meredith met for a weekend at the University of Sydney. Reflecting what would become its four pillars of membership the meeting had Australian and New Zealand representation from academic institutions (including researchers and teachers), government agencies and practitioner groups.

That meeting established SEAANZ and acted as a forerunner to a regular annual conference. It did not take long for the association to launch our journal in 1992, to gain affiliate status with the ICSB (formally in 1992), and to host our first ICSB conference in Sydney in 1995. Certainly a busy start which has continued over the last 25 years (notably the hosting of additional ICSB conferences in Brisbane, Melbourne and Wellington) as we have continued to actively promote research, policy development, and practical skill development for small firms and entrepreneurs in Australia and New Zealand.

During its 25 years there have been various structural changes with chapters having varying degrees of autonomy in some states and New Zealand. We have also experienced difficulties with potentially competing groups emerging and our conference standing being challenged by emerging alternatives. However the Association continues to meet such challenges and to bring together Small and Medium Enterprise professionals in practice, education, and training and to promote SME development, communication, and dissemination of ideas and information. I have no reason to believe that the association will not be celebrating a 50th Anniversary in another 25 years. In the meantime enjoy this reflection on the first 25 years.



Brian Gibson
President

Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand the history so far

SEAANZ was formed at a meeting in Sydney in 1987 with the aim of bringing together Small and Medium Enterprise professionals in practice, education and training and to promote SME development, communication and dissemination of research, ideas and information..

While part of the motivation behind its formation was a possible role as an ICSB affiliate this was not the driving force. Rather the group of educators and government agency employees who gathered in Sydney for the first meeting was concerned to establish an association that would reflect its stated objectives to further the development of scholarship, education and research in small enterprise and enterprise management. This included encouraging the application of research findings and identifying and developing proposals for programs to meet small enterprise needs. The “enterprise” in the associations name was meant to signify and reiterate a dedication to small scale operations—whether of a for-profit, non-profit, community or non-community, public or private nature.

During its formative years SEAANZ negotiated with the ICSB to become an affiliate. At the same time the ICSB were having discussions with the Council of Small Business Organizations of Australia. The ICSB chose SEAANZ and it formally became an affiliate in 1992 and soon after sponsored the first ICSB World Conference held in the Pacific Rim in Sydney in 1995. It also was the first ICSB conference at which a head of state spoke to attendees (then Prime Minister, Paul Keating).

Since its establishment, SEAANZ has actively promoted research, policy development, and practical skill development for small firms and entrepreneurs in Australia and New Zealand. During that time there have been various structural changes with chapters in some states and New Zealand having varying degrees of autonomy. However the Association has continued to bring together Small and Medium Enterprise professionals in practice, education, and training and to promote SME development, communication, and dissemination of ideas and information.

It has, at various times, maintained a close link with government through positions on various committees and has used a number of approaches to reach out to its constituents, more recently classified as being associated with the four pillars of educators, researchers, policy makers, and practitioners. Member communication and interaction has relied on a number of outlets including an annual conference, a research journal, a regular newsletter in the early years and more recently a web site and a linked in group.

Since 1987 SEAANZ has been actively involved in promoting research, policy development and practical skill development for small firms and entrepreneurs in Australia and New Zealand. Our journal, Small Enterprise Research, commenced publication in 1992; in the same year SEAANZ was affiliated to the International Council for Small Business (ICSB). Our New Zealand chapter was created in 1991, and incorporated in 1994.

Over the years member numbers have waxed and waned. Much of the waxing has taken place with the hosting of successful SEAANZ conferences. With conference registration comes SEAANZ membership and some of the more successful conferences effectively doubled membership.

Colin Dunn

Past Presidents of SEAANZ

Geoff Meredith
(1987-89)



Barbara McLure
(1989-91)



Richard McMahon
(1991-93)



Scott Holmes
(1993-95)



John Scales
(1995-97)



John Breen
(1997-99)



Jenet Connell
(1999-00)



Bob Arnall
(2000-02)



Colin Dunn
(2002-04)



Christine Reid
(2004)



Michael Schaper
(2004-06)



Claire Massey
(2006-07),



Tony Clemenger
(2007-08)



Margaret Drever
(2008 - 2010)



Brian Gibson
(2010-present)



Research in Entrepreneurship and Small Business

Conferences

2012	Wellington, New Zealand (joint ICSB world conference)	2000	Brisbane, Queensland (joint ICSB world conference)
2011	Sydney, NSW	1999	Melbourne, Victoria
2010	Cairns, Queensland	1998	Burnie, Tasmania
2009	Wellington, New Zealand	1997	Coffs Harbour, NSW
2008	Sydney, NSW	1996	Fremantle, Western Australia
2007	Manukau City, New Zealand	1995	Sydney, NSW (joint ICSB world conference)
2006	Melbourne, Victoria (joint ICSB world conference)	1994	Auckland, New Zealand
2005	Armidale, NSW	1993	Melbourne, Victoria
2004	Brisbane, Queensland	1992	Sydney, NSW
2003	Ballarat, Victoria	1991	Wollongong, NSW
2002	Adelaide, South Australia	1990	Gold Coast, Queensland
2001	Wellington, New Zealand	1989	Adelaide, South Australia
		1988	Sydney, NSW

Small Enterprise Research



Small Enterprise Research (SER) is the official membership journal of SEAANZ. First published in 1992 it is now in its 19th volume. Focussing on theoretical, analytical and practical insights into how SME's are built and managed, it has an Asia Pacific orientation (naturally).

Focus of the SER

At a general level - the

- management of SMEs; growth and sustainability of SMEs and entrepreneurial firms; contribution of SMEs and entrepreneurial firms to regional and national economies; and the roles, attributes and characteristics of the individuals who start up and run SMEs

At a more specific level

- Managing business start-ups, growth and succession; Family firm issues; Home based enterprises; Strategy, governance, planning, learning and leadership; Financial management of SMEs; Human resource management in SMEs; Studies with a regional or indigenous focus; Emerging and developed economies; Enterprise policy in respect to SMEs; Education and training outcomes; Studies of SME owner-managers from the perspective of age, gender, or ethnicity ; and Contemporary issues in the SME context (e.g. sustainability and environmental management)

The Editors

1992 – Volume 1	Founding Editor – Scott Holmes	Associate Editors – Gary Tibbits and Claudio Romano
1993 – Volume 2	Joint Editors - Patrick Hutchinson and Richard McMahon	Associate Editor – Gary Tibbits
1994 – Volume 3	Joint Editors - Patrick Hutchinson and Richard McMahon	Associate Editor – Gary Tibbits
1995 – Volume 4	Joint Editors - Patrick Hutchinson and Gary Tibbits	
1996 – 1998 Volumes 5 to 6	Joint Editors - Gary Tibbits and Scott Holmes	
1999 - 2004 Volumes 7 to 12	Joint Editors - Gary Tibbits and Brian Gibson	
2005 - 2007 Volume 13-15	Editor – Brian Gibson	Associate Editors – Claire Massey, John Watson and Gary Tibbits
2008 - 2009 Volumes 16	Co-Editors – Delwyn Clark and Stuart Locke	Associate Editors – Tim Mazzarol and Victoria Wise
2010 – 2011 Volume 17-18	Consulting Editor – Brian Gibson	Associate Editors – Kate Lewis and Beth Walker
2012 – Volume 19	Editor In Chief - Kate Lewis	Associate Editor – Beth Walker Consulting Editor – Brian Gibson

Memories



Meeting SEAANZ Executive in Melbourne in 1991

Meeting SEAANZ Executive in Sydney in 1992



Publicising ICSB 40th World Conference at the 39th World Conference held in Strasbourg, France Ken O'Neil, Lloyd Fernald, the winner of the Koala and Richard McMahon. 1994

Opening ceremony ICSB 40th World Conference, Sydney, 1995



Closing ceremony of the ICSB 40th World Conference, Sydney, 1995. Scott Holmes, Yoon-Bae Ouh from Korea (incoming ICSB President), Prime Minister Paul Keating, Ken O'Neil (outgoing ICSB President) and Richard McMahon.

Planning group for ICSB Melbourne - taken 2003. Prof. Chris Whitaker (RMIT University), Ivan Deveson AO, Jose Romaguera (ICSB President), Judy Hartcher (SEAANZ), John Bailey (SEAANZ) and Colin Dunn (RMIT)





Prof. Evan Douglas of the Queensland University of Technology, host of the 2004 conference, gets the conference handover from the 2003 host, Prof. Julian Lowe of the University of Ballarat under the watchful eye of the then SEANZ Pres. Colin Dunn

Margaret Drever and Michael Schaper
Jan 2006 Board Meeting



Brian Gibson engaging with Michael Schaper
2006

Claire Massey, Stuart Locke, Colin Jones and Brian 2006



Michael Christie and Margaret Drever 2006

SEAANZ Board 2006
– Stuart Locke, Colin Jones, John Mercer, Michael Christie, Kathy Griffiths (Secretariat), Colin Dunn, Michael Schaper (rear), Claire Massey, Brian Gibson, Tony Clemenger and Margaret Drever.



Current Board 2012

- President: **Professor Brian Gibson** - NSW
- Vice President: **Ms Rosemarie Dawson** - NZ
- Vice President: **Mr Colin Dunn** - NSW
- Vice President: **Mr Tony Stephenson** - NZ
- Vice President: **Dr Kate Lewis** (also journal editors' representative) - NZ
- Committee member: **Mr Ken Matheson** - Qld
- Committee member: **Professor Tim Mazzarol** – WA
- Committee member: **Dr Bernice Kotey** - NSW
- Committee member: **Dr Neil James** - Qld
- Executive Director: **Mrs Allison Taranchokov** - NZ