

Chairman's Report

New Members and a busy year already started

First, I would like to say “Happy New Year” and hope you all had a safe Christmas. I know it seems like a distant memory.

The wheels of industry are well and truly turning for 2010. The economy seems to be on the improve, interest rates are once again moving-up, and I feel like I have done six months work and its only March. This year also brings some significant new presses and equipment to our shores. The most pleasing part, is that this equipment is going to the smaller to medium-size companies.

We kicked off the ANZFTA workshops for this year in SA on the 25th March, the first one there for some time, and depending on the response, we're keen to pencil in another for later in the year. Our program is to run in Melbourne and in Sydney. The first for Melbourne will be May 17 at the RMIT. After talking to Production and Print managers late last year, to find out what they wanted, we have come up with a range of topics which include, anilox care and selection, blades and blade pressures, setting-up a job from artwork, plus a range of other topics. All the information on forthcoming workshops will be listed in FLEXO magazine. All the workshops will be run in conjunction with a tech class for first, second and third year apprentices, but I urge all print managers to send their printers and apprentices, as all those who attend, will receive a certificate of attainment.

The Annual Technical Forum for this year is moving along very nicely, the date and venue have been confirmed, the speakers list sorted, experts approached and as we go to print, we're confirming availability. Looking at the list, there is something there for everybody. We have already received some samples for the ANZFTA Print Awards; “thank-you” to those companies. Keep them coming, don't forget the cut-off date is the 2nd of July. Samples received after that will be disqualified. Please double-check you have the right amount of repeats, because we had some jobs ruled out last year for this. We don't want this to happen to you. It's another reason not to leave it until the last minute.

I am also looking for more judges, so if you are interested and have what it takes, you can contact me through the ANZFTA. If you have entered work you are ineligible, and for those who judged last year, I will be contacting you shortly to check your availability.

We have a number of new members this year, a big flexo welcome to those companies. We'll be looking forward to catching-up with you in the near future. I hope you enjoy this edition of FLEXO and I hope your ink pots never run dry.



DAVID FEENAN - Chairman