

## Presidents Report

I am happy to report to you that The Master Grocers Australia (MGA) is in good shape and well positioned for the future. Membership is increasing, finances are sustainable and further development of the MGA's member support services has begun. Owing to our organisation being in a strong financial position, membership subscriptions and services have continued to be subsidised by the MGA. Our members can feel assured that your Board is 100% committed to the national Independent Grocery and Liquor retailer sector.

In October 2006, the Board appointed Jos de Bruin as National CEO of the MGA, taking over from Jennifer Flanagan. I would like to thank Jennifer for her passion, professionalism, loyalty and dedication to the MGA and all of its members. Jennifer has worked very hard over the past nine years to build the MGA into a reputable peak industry Employer Association that has paved the way for the MGA to take its offer to members nationally.

The 2006–2007 Financial year has been a year of positive change and challenge for both our staff and Board members. The progress we have made so far would not have been possible without the high level of commitment and dedicated professionalism of my fellow Board members.

To reflect our national expansion objectives, the Board has been involved in a number of dedicated work-streams and sub-committees. The purpose of forming these sub-committees is to tap into the enormous amount of knowledge and experience our retailer Board members have in all facets of the supermarket industry.

Workstreams included such areas as The Constitution, Training and Industry Research, Marketing / Membership Services and Finance.



Jennifer Flanagan and Rodney Allen

The Board is fully reviewing the Master Grocers Association of Victoria Constitution to ensure the MGA's relevancy for the many years to come. In order to do this effectively the Board came together to specifically discuss where the national industry is today, what the likely industry changes and trends may be, what is it the MGA needs to do to be constantly relevant to members and then identify a long term strategic plan.

The Board will be proposing and recommending to all members that the Constitution be amended to reflect the long term strategic plan of national expansion the MGA is wishing to pursue. We envisage the proposed changes to the Constitution will be forwarded to all members in the near future to vote on.

***I would like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage all members to vote for all the proposed constitutional amendments. An amended Constitution will give the MGA a solid platform to build a strong and viable national industry organisation for the future.***

To provide the MGA with additional expertise and a diverse view of our industry the Board has created two guest observer positions on the Board. We welcome Leigh Garrett from Western Australia and Tony Smith from NSW/ACT, both Leigh and Tony are prominent independent retailers in their respective states.

No organisation can stand alone and expect to achieve what the MGA set out to do at the commencement of this year. I wish to thank our loyal and dedicated professional service providers and advisors for their commitment. Thank you to Phil Ibbotson and his dedicated team at Ibbotson and Moscatelli Accountants, Roger Pallant and Marg Haines, principals of NIBS who deliver all MGA's national OH&S training support and advice, Steven Brady Miles at William Angliss, Allan Read at Dibbs Abbott Stillman Lawyers, Sam Eichenbaum and the team at Macpherson and Kelley Lawyers, Peter Etheridge and his team at FIS, our preferred industry insurance specialists, Peter Davidson at Workplace Legal, Tim Kidman at Fuel Marketing. I would also like to express the Board's thanks to John Markham and Keith Watts who together are responsible for the production and publishing of our much read national magazine and website.

To our Associate Members, we greatly value your support. The Board thanks you for your vision to be involved in the independent grocery and liquor retailer sector. Your support as a stakeholder in our industry and a member of the MGA is testimony to your commitment to grow your relationship with our independent retailer members.