
President Message



President's Message for the Outgoing year 2023 and Incoming year 2024.

Where did 2023 go? Can you remember coming into 2023 and thinking thank God Covid is over, looking forward to a year without lockdowns, stock shortages and easy access to clients' offices – where did the year go?

Well, the year did go, and we are moving quickly into 2024.

I'd like to reflect on what was achieved in 2023.

Graeme Reid and Stuart Swaddling started work on the IPA Indoor Plant Training Manual, which will be completed in 2024.

Our second year of running the IPA Awards, once again was hotly contested, showcasing work that our members generated throughout the year. The work generated and the presentations that were submitted in 2023 raised the bar for all the industry.

This commitment to developing new styles, products and processes not only drives up our industry importance but also cements our relationship with our clients and prospective ones.

The annual awards were organised by our CEO Elaine Tunn and Treasurer Rob Shand. Thank you to Elaine for organising the event, and the judges, and Rob for organising the sponsors. Without Elaine and Rob, we wouldn't have the awards.

Looking forward to the 2024 awards I'd encourage you to showcase your business' work – it's also a great way of showing and promoting your prospective clients what your business can do.

In the background the association continued to look at ways of improving services to our members with webinars, covering items of interest to small business such as Finance, Legal and Prof. Fraser Torpy's presentation on his latest research.

Please let us know what you would like to be presented in 2024 so we can continue with informative and relevant webinars.

Our present website has served us well over the years that it has been operational. Elaine began working with website developers in 2023, and we hope to have a new website up and running by the first half of 2024, which will give numerous benefits to you as members.

During the last few months of the year the association made several presentations to the Green Building Council of Australia as they look to revamp the Green Star Fitouts rating tool, which we will see coming into effect during 2024. The presentations were made with the view to strengthen the importance of plants in building and see if further points could be awarded when plants are included in buildings. I'd like to thank Josh Ursem whom assisted with the presentations.

So, what is planned for IPA in 2024?

Thank you to the 2023 board members – Robert Shand, Graeme Reid, Elaine Tunn, Stuart Swaddling and Josh Ursem - for their support and contributions. I would also like to welcome our 2024 new board members, Meriel Campbell-Lloyd and Tara Heels. We appreciate you stepping up and supporting your industry association. We look forward to working with you.

With that said, I would like to invite members of the association to put their hands up and be part of your small but active association. A strong association can assist the industry, just like it did during the COVID lockdowns; without the association's presentations to government, many of our businesses wouldn't have been able to operate.

Please come along and see what you can bring to industry.

2024 will see us continue with the awards program, complete the new website, generate webinars, and most importantly promote the industry and the benefits of plants indoors.

We look forward to working with you.

Regards
Ray Borg
2023, 2024 - IPA President
Mobile No: 0414 809 746
Office: 02 9119 1280