



## President's Message

20 July 2016

The recent results of our Federal election, the Brexit vote and the rise of Donald Trump in the United States can in large part be attributed to a popular frustration with the rate of economic recovery from the GFC. Many feel vulnerable and consider the political system and economy has left them behind.

This sentiment leads to ongoing resistance to free trade to a retreat to isolationism. There are many calls for introduction of trade barriers and protectionist measures to be adopted in Australia.

To heed these would result in a huge disservice to the Australian economy and would be a recipe for slow growth and reduced living standards.

As a country we need to ensure our economy is as efficient and globally competitive as possible. There is no future in propping up unviable businesses and work practices.

At a Redland's level we have so many exciting and vibrant businesses. We often overlook their important contribution to our community. The Chamber of Commerce recognises their achievements by facilitating the annual Business and Retail Awards.

The Awards culminate with a Gala Presentation Dinner at Sheldon Event Centre Saturday, 6 August.

This is the premier business event for the year with over 600 persons acknowledging and celebrating business success in Redlands. We would like to congratulate all those businesses who participated this year.