

NOTES FROM QLD BCI FORUM – AUG 2006

We were lucky enough to have Mike Edmonds (formerly of Brisbane City Council and now a man of leisure) speak on some of the Business Continuity initiatives at BCC. This included some information on how BCC would handle Pandemics. This was a very interesting talk and created much discussion within the group. It was good to hear that BCC has plans to cater for most situations.

David James-Brown also provided an update on the latest thinking at BCI as he has just returned from a trip to the UK where he met with the BCI representatives there. David's update is included below:

- DJB recently met with Lyndon Bird and Lorraine Darke of the BCI Executive in London and relayed the following messages:
- Education:- The BCI is looking for ways to drive standards in Business Continuity Management beyond just endorsement of courses developed by individuals and organisations. In the future it will likely look to leverage the intellectual input of the membership for this purpose. Timeframe is not set.
- Membership:- As QLD Forum attendees will be aware the Joining Fee for people wishing to become an Associate of the BCI has been waived and this has encouraged a few to take up the offer. DJB asked about the possibility of also waiving the first year's membership fee for Associate grade as maybe a one-off inducement and some consideration was going to be given to this. (Fee for professional grades of membership will be unaffected). More news on this as it comes to hand.
- Entry by Examination:- It was discussed that the BCI moving to membership by examination is inevitable and significant work is being done in this area at present. (Maybe another incentive for intending members to join soon)

David actually travelled back from the UK around the time of the latest terrorist scare around flights from the UK. He raised an interesting point on something that he noticed on his trip back. One of the casualties of the recent airline bombing plot are the Duty Free outlets at airports. Outlets in airport concourses have been deserted for almost a week now and the continuation of no liquids (alcohol, perfume etc) or gels (cosmetics, make-up etc) is set to continue indefinitely. Other points of interest from the meeting:

- BCI Board Elections:- Ballot forms will be distributed (to BCI Members) soon and the closing date for entry of completed forms is noon on 29 September 2006. David James-Brown has been nominated to run for the Board and would appreciate your backing (by completing the voting forms when they come out) to achieve Queensland and Australian representation on the Committee.
- There were several positive comments about Fiona McKersie (DG Emergency Services) presentation to the previous Forum meeting.
- We also discussed if the collective expertise and experience of the BCI QLD Forum could be used in identifying threats; particularly say in critical infrastructure or transport systems (the soft target of choice at present for politically motivated violence). Is there a non-threatening way that members of the forum can share their observations with local authorities without appearing to need to meddle? Your thoughts and ideas encouraged.

Future Forums.

We are looking for volunteers to host future Forum meetings. We are after a room that seats about 20, a projector and a light lunch. Your assistance would be appreciated. We would like to develop and maintain a schedule for the next 2 to 3 meetings to stay ahead of the game.

We also discussed the possibility of having a 'round-table' discussion at an upcoming meeting rather than a guest speaker. Topics for such a discussion might be around a) Pandemics and b) Threats to the soft targets (transport, public). Please let us know if you would be keen to host a meeting and be involved in a discussion on those or other topics. We are always open to suggestions.