

## In this Fortnight's Issue

- Fair Work System Begins
- Market Watch – Manufacturing lift
- From the Manager's Office
- Desert Knowledge Australia
- Events@theChamber

Tuesday 2 February 2010



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# Mount Isa Chamber of Commerce

**BUILDING BETTER BUSINESS**

"A business has to be involving, it has to be fun, and it has to exercise your creative instincts." - **Richard Branson**

## COMMENCEMENT OF FAIR WORK SYSTEM

1 January 2010 saw the commencement of the Federal Government's new national Fair Work system. This included the 10 National Employment Standards and modern industrial awards. The new changes affect all private sector employers and employees in Queensland following the State Government's decision last year to hand over their industrial relations powers to the Federal Government. It is important that all employers understand their rights and responsibilities under the new system. Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland = President David Goodwin has warned that many Queensland businesses will see dramatically altered industrial relations arrangements, however many employers may not yet be fully conscious of what the changes entail. Employers need to know the awards that apply to their employees, their employee's entitlements and the transitional arrangements that apply to their businesses. Employers requiring further information or assistance should contact Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland's Employer Assistance Line or phone 1300 135 822.

### MARKET WATCH - Aust manufacturing lifts in January

Manufacturing activity expanded in January on the back of a lift in new orders and exports after a contraction in the last month of 2009.

The Australian Industry Group/PricewaterhouseCoopers performance of manufacturing index (PMI) rose by a seasonally adjusted 2.5 points in December to 51.0. Readings above 50.0 indicate a rise in activity. The sector experienced renewed demand in the housing and resources sectors, particularly for companies involved in construction materials, transport equipment and petroleum and coal products.

Overall activity expanded despite the first contraction in employment in three months. Ai Group chief executive Heather Ridout said while manufacturing made a relatively encouraging start to the year, the performance of key components remained patchy, with a rise in new orders broadly offset by a heavy run down in stocks and a decline in employment.

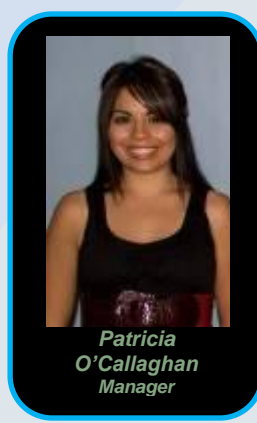
"With output in the sector having fallen by 7.8 per cent in the year to the September quarter 2009, and with around 80,000 jobs lost from the sector in 2009, a sustained upswing in manufacturing activity is needed to fill the large chunk taken out of the sector by the global economic downturn," Mrs. Ridout said. The PMI showed six sectors experienced growth in January, with the strongest increases in construction materials, transport equipment, petroleum and coal products and basic metals products. Activity lifted in the printing and publishing sector for the first time since September 2009 while the seasonally adjusted new orders sub-index jumped 7.4 points to 56.0 point. Despite the lift in overall activity, employment fell for the first time in three months, with the sub-index dropping 3.7 points to 47.1. The largest falls were in the food and beverages, textiles and clothing and footwear sectors.

Export levels were up in January but the high Australian dollar continued to restrict growth. Meanwhile, seasonally adjusted, the production sub-index rose by 4.9 points to 51.5, signalling the resumption of modest growth in the sector.

Source: <http://www.businessspectator.com.au/bs.nsf/Article/Australia-manufacturing-activity-picks-up-in-Jan-28UJC?OpenDocument&WELCOME=AUTHENTICATED%20REMEMBER>

# From the Manager's Office

It has been positive to note that in the last year the accessibility of Mount Isa has increased through the commencement of a number of new airline carriers that have transformed this City into an outback gateway with potential for international tourism. With QANTAS and QANTAS Link servicing the Townsville and Brisbane routes, Air North servicing the Gold Coast and Darwin routes, Skytrans servicing the Cairns route, Regional Pacific Airlines servicing the Cairns & Alice Springs routes and now REX Airlines taking over from West Wing Aviation to service not only the regional routes but also the Townsville, Mount Isa routes, we are now not only seeing several different carriers but also competition on various routes, which the North West has experienced for some time. The price of airfares has always been a controversial issue for the residents of this City, therefore it is refreshing to see affordable and reasonably priced airfares being promoted that inevitably opens opportunity for domestic and business travel. All six airlines have become very proactive members of the Chamber and this month, Skytrans is our naming rights sponsor for our first networking function of the year. Skytrans will also be bringing representatives from the Cairns Chamber of Commerce and various Cairns economic development bodies to introduce them to our local business community and begin fostering a relationship between the two regions. The Chamber has been also been working with QANTAS in regards to the Brisbane route and we have been able to arrange a presentation evening from the Queensland manager of QANTAS Andrew Hogg on the 4<sup>th</sup> March. The presentation will give members a behind the scenes look at the aviation industry and the logistics of servicing regional and remotes routes such as Mount Isa. We will keep you updated with details on this event closer to date....



Patricia  
O'Callaghan  
Manager

## Events @ the Chamber

### MOUNT ISA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NETWORKING FUNCTION

Tuesday 16 February  
6pm – 9pm  
Livingstone's  
Restaurant  
Sponsored by Skytrans

Skytrans provides scheduled service flights to Cairns, [Lockhart River](#), [Aurukun](#), [Coen](#), [Cooktown](#), [Palm Island](#), Townsville, Bamaga, Edward River, Kowanyama, Normanton, Gununa, Burketown, Doomadgee, Mount Isa, Boulia, Bedourie, Birdsville, Windorah, Quilpie, Charleville, Brisbane, Toowoomba, St George, Cunnamulla and Thargomindah. They pride themselves in providing professional aviation services to some of the most remote parts of Australia. They are constantly expanding their route network and recently upgraded [their](#) fleet to the larger DHC-8 - 36 seat aircraft. So why not check out our flight specials or the "[Where We Fly](#)" web page through [www.skytans.com.au](http://www.skytans.com.au) .

### NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be in the Defense Force Reserves Boardroom on Tuesday 9 February at 5:30pm. This room is located on RYAN ROAD and will be highlighted with signage. Agenda is attached.



Jo Culbertson  
Network Development Officer



Hi Everyone

Hope the New Year has treated you all well and here's to huge 2010. Here at Desert Knowledge Australia's Outback Business Network we have started the year off running and it is only going to get busier. One project I will be concentrating on early in the year is the Xstrata Mount Isa Mining Expo. DKA have their own double booth and have had quite a lot of interest from other mining services networkers who are planning to come from all around Australia and join us for the week of event. Another project I will be working is the promotion

of the Visitor Information Centres and working with the OQTA to increase the awareness of Overlanders Way. With the vastness of gemstones, fossils and stunning country side, the Overlanders Way is a prime tourist route with marketing potential. I will also be trying to get some funding so we can build some interpretive signage for the Mount Isa Lookout. A local Hotelier is also about to commence Walk, Talk and Taste tours. A great concept - you walk through their bush foods gardens, look, pick, smell that natural product. Then once back inside, meals will be cooked in front of you, using the plants you observed. Possible using local product and enjoying Australian wines, what more could a true Queenslanders want. Congratulations to the Outback @ Isa for reopening their art gallery upstairs. It is going to be much easier to see some of the amazing artwork created by our talented locals.

## Quick Smart Easifind

Advertising for the 2010-2011 edition of the Quick Smart Easifind directory is closing soon.

This is the **ONLY** locally produced phone directory in North West Queensland.

Call Laura today to organise for your business to be included.

## FUNNY THOUGHTS

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**“Figure out what happened to the last crew here, and tell the next crew not to do that.”**



22 West Street Mount Isa  
QLD 4825

Phone: (07) 4743 9881 Fax: (07) 4743 7266  
[www.mountisachamber.com.au](http://www.mountisachamber.com.au)  
[admin@mountisachamber.com.au](mailto:admin@mountisachamber.com.au) [www.mountisa.biz](http://www.mountisa.biz)