

# Farewell Danielle Bolton!

This week sees the end of the long-term contract between Association Solutions and the EIANZ SEQ Division. Many of you will have met their Director and SEQ Secretariat, Danielle Bolton, over her 18 years of service to the Institute.

During almost two decades, Danielle has made many friends who will miss seeing her at events and at committee meetings. Indeed, Danielle has attended 189 SEQ committee meetings, hosted 174 events which have reached over 11, 300 attendees and raised over \$530, 000 for the EIANZ to invest in future events and initiatives.

After such a tremendous contribution to the Institute, Danielle has been given quite the send-off! Last week, EIANZ Board members Vicki Brady, Mark Breiffuss and Alan Chenoweth took Danielle out for a wonderful lunch with plenty of flowing bubbles and belly laughs. Danielle was presented with a set of engraved champagne flutes and a bottle of Bollinger as a small thank you for her contributions to the EIANZ. Next week, the SEQ Division will give Danielle one final farewell at a special soirée in Brisbane city. We wish everyone a wonderful evening.

The EIANZ wishes Danielle all the best for her future endeavours. With the tenacity and humour she brings to her business, we know she will continue to contribute significantly to all of her clients.

Before she left, we reached out to some long-term members to share some memories of Danielle.

*“For 18 years, Danielle has been a constant in the equation that characterised the SEQ Division, responding to the Executive Committee's needs and making things happen, or drawing on her experience to steer us away from things she knew would not work. We benefited from Danielle's burgeoning capabilities in not-for-profit organisation management, as she constantly up-skilled in this field, and created her company Association Solutions.*

*Many times over the years she would drive down from Wamuran through Brisbane's peak hour traffic, arriving with a car boot full of wine & cheese in basement car parks of various different CBD or Valley buildings, wherever the latest SEQ event was being held, and setting up everything in advance for the evening's seminar or AGM, always with a self-deprecatory laugh, rarely if ever flustered.*

*Fond memories also of Rimfall Farm, the best-ever country retreat for the SEQ Committee, where Danielle would make sure the roster for cooking and cleaning went smoothly, our strategic planning agenda was achieved, and all the kids (including Monique) had fun.*

*Many of us long-serving EIANZ members in SEQ regard Danielle and Monique as family, and like all families there have been good times, funny moments and tough times. A highlight for me was when we learned a new respect for Danielle when she demonstrated the power of a flying iPad! “*

Alan Chenoweth HFEIANZ CEnvP

*“Besides providing exceptional upfront and behind the scene support to SEQ Division to achieve its goals, it was her ability to develop a “feeling of family” within SEQ Division that I will always remember her.*

*I recall with some affection that at the Rimfall and Cedar Glen weekend strategic planning workshops held in 2006-10 she included member’s families (spouses and children). On one occasion Danielle made it clear that my wife, Faye was being invited to attend to provide food, especially biscuits and cakes and that I was being invited to attend as her companion. Faye wasn’t even a member of SEQ Division!”*

Howard Briggs FEIANZ

*“Danielle was excellent to work with and delivered so much so early. It is 2002/2003 at the very start of Danielle’s time with EIANZ SEQ Division, and the ripples continued for many years later. I had taken on a CEO role under Bill Haylock, SEQ Division President. Bill led, I managed and Danielle made things happen! A perfect partnership that delivered many EIANZ results and made the organisation more professional.*

*Two examples of this are from 2002, when SEQ Division reported a \$140,000 surplus that allowed EIANZ to remain solvent; and a secretariat model that enabled SEQ Division to gain the highest membership in the Institute, and to train nearly 1,000 climate change practitioners across ANZ between 2008 and 2011.*

*If that was not enough, Danielle masked work with celebration. I recall three successive years of SEQ Division strategic planning sessions at three Queensland farms. They were smoothly oiled collegiate and family friendly weekends in blissful surroundings. Ultimately, they delivered the results above, and many more.*

*None would have been possible without Danielle’s and Association Solutions’ hard work, partnering skills, helpful temperament, sense of fun and easy-going nature. Danielle, after what we achieved together at the start of your EIANZ career, I am sure you will be a very hard act to follow! Thank you so much!”*

Simon Cavendish FEIANZ CEnvP