

Our First Year in Review



The Board thanks AAAI members, sponsors, partners and supporters for your highly valued commitment and contribution in 2008.

Here is an update on AAAI activities in 2008 that benefited from your generous support.

EVENTS: 2008 AAAI NATIONAL ANGELS CONFERENCE

Held in Canberra 13-15 February the inaugural conference was a great success with over 90 attendees (60+ angel investors), well in excess of expectations. Great feedback from both local and international participants!

The Angel Policy Forum was held prior to the conference (supported by DIISR) with 30+ Federal and State government officers. Robust discussions were held about the role of angels in the economy and how the AAAI might partner with governments to promote sustained and sustainable angel investment in Australia.

Special mention: Inspired by our achievements with the AAAI, the New Zealand angel groups got together and planned their own NZ angel association whilst at the conference!! The [Angel Association New Zealand](#) (AANZ) was formally established in April 2008 and AAAI Board members attended the inaugural AANZ Angel Summit in November. The AAAI and AANZ continue to collaborate for the benefit of our members and to build a strong and vibrant angel community in the region.

AAAI BOARD SUMMIT – SYDNEY

Held in Sydney June 18-19, hosted by [Hall Capital Strategies](#), this was an opportunity to meet with NSW members and others interested in the angel community.

The NSW AAAI task force, led by Director Vivian Stewart, organised a very successful cocktail event and, even more importantly, reported to the Board on their excellent progress towards establishing the first new Sydney-based angel group.

AAAI BOARD SUMMIT – MELBOURNE

Held in Melbourne October 2-3 hosted by Melbourne Angels. An excellent boardroom lunch was sponsored by [Macpherson+Kelly](#) Lawyers in their city office.

[Investec Bank](#) sponsored a very well attended cocktails event in their city offices with presentations on the Bank, issues/opportunities in the current financial climate and an introduction to angel investing for the many prospective angels who attended.

AAAI Board members have been busy speaking at conferences and seminars around the country promoting AAAI and angel investing as an asset class,

assisting in the education of the public about angel investing and supporting Local, State and Federal government initiatives.

IN THE MEDIA:

AAAI has been fortunate that Angel investing has caught the interest of many folk and we appreciate the many media organisations around the country who have published our articles and/or other articles about Angel investing. The [Australian Anthill](#) has introduced an angel investing section written by AAAI Director Jordan Green in its regular 'housekeeping' section, as well as a number of feature articles on the angel space.

The [BRW](#) has stayed very interested in angel activity and reported on the space at least half a dozen times this year including centre-piece features by senior business journalist Kath Walters.

[MyBusiness](#) magazine and has run several articles authored by AAAI Director Jordan Green and MyBusiness stable mate, the [Australian Venture Capital Journal](#) continues to report on angel involvement in early stage investment in Australia.

We particularly appreciate the many newspapers, magazines and blogs that have run their own articles on angel investing, as well as picking up our articles for reprint and syndication.

In March, [Business Break](#), a drive time radio show for commuters conducted and aired a series of three interviews with AAAI Director Jordan Green.

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Our First Year in Review

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POLICY:

NATIONAL INNOVATION REVIEW

The AAAI Board, with substantial assistance from a national AAAI Policy Committee of members and supporters led by AAAI Director John Ballard, submitted a detailed report to the Innovation Review. That [submission](#) is available on the National Innovation Review web site listed under Australian Association of Angel Investors Limited.

This was a huge, two month, intensive, volunteer effort by dozens of AAAI members and associates reflecting the concerns and vision for commercialisation in the innovation sector of the AAAI constituency. The September edition of this newsletter detailed the current policy initiatives of the AAAI.

AAAI Directors and other AAAI members were prominent contributors to the industry consultation sessions in at least five states. AAAI Directors have had several meetings with the Innovation Review committee and continue to proactively participate in the national discussion of innovation policy and practice. As a direct result of these AAAI activities, the Innovation Review Green Paper has recognised the importance of angel investing in funding commercialisation of early stage innovation (Recommendation 9.10).

Most recently, the AAAI was invited to participate in the Venture Capital Industry Stakeholder Meeting called by Senator the Honourable Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. The AAAI is particularly pleased to have achieved this level of recognition and the improved access it offers the Association to collaborate with government on behalf of its members.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:

The AAAI is committed to assisting our members participate in the global angel community and has signed cooperation agreements with the angel associations in New Zealand, Europe, the USA and Canada. The AAAI is a founding member of the [World Business Angels Association](#). In the course of the year AAAI Directors represented Australian angels at several international conferences.

- John Mactaggart, AAAI Chairman, attended the European Business Angels Network (EBAN) conference in Europe in April.
- John Mactaggart, AAAI Chairman, attended the seminal meeting of the World Business Angels Association in Portugal in April.
- AAAI Directors John Mactaggart, Jordan Green and John Ballard, together with Gold Coast Angels leader Andrew Loch attended the Angel Capital Association (ACA) Summit in San Diego in May.
- Jordan Green spent 4½ weeks touring the USA establishing relationships with angel groups and early stage VCs. Jordan was researching best practice for sustainable angel groups and for gathering reliable angel investment data.
- AAAI Board members John Mactaggart, Jordan Green and Stewart Gow attended the inaugural Angel Association of New Zealand (AANZ) Angel Summit in November.

Directors have travelled to conferences at their own expense.

EDUCATION:

The AAAI has commenced development of angel education courses tailored to the Australian context. This is part of the international collaboration with Angel associations in New Zealand, Canada and the USA to develop generic angel education courses around internationally recognised best practices for angel investment.

Driven by the very positive response to the Master Class at the 2008 Conference, the AAAI, in partnership with the AANZ, has arranged for several leading Australian Angels to complete a train-the-trainer course in early 2009 for the Power of Angel Investing workshops developed and distributed by the [Angel Capital Education Foundation](#) (ACEF).

ANGEL GROUPS:

Fostering the establishment and growth of angel groups is a priority for the AAAI. In 2008 AAAI has encouraged and facilitated the commencement of two new angel groups. Sydney Angels is the first new angel group to be based in NSW and Darling Downs Angels is a new angel group for Queensland.

The AAAI is facilitating a cross-border special interest network for Angel investors in the life sciences area. Together with angel groups in New Zealand and Silicon Valley, Australian angel groups are participating in the Life Science Angels Network to share deal flow and investment resources.

NEWSLETTERS:

This AAAI monthly newsletter, Angel News Australia, is providing a valuable information exchange and promotional tool for angel investing as an asset class. Several Angel News articles have been approved for reprint in response to requests from local and international newsletters, web sites and blogs. Back copies of Angel News can be accessed via the AAAI web site.

2009 National Angels Conference – don't miss out!

Early Bird Now!!
Register Here

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[All emails and web sites clickable]

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Events**AUSTRALIA**

AAAI National Angel Conference
 February 18-20 2009 Brisbane

Melbourne Angels Lunch
 February 27th 12-2pm Toorak

Capital Angels Meeting
 -to be announced-, Canberra

Brisbane Angels Entrepreneurs Welcome
 13th January, Brisbane

BioAngels Meeting
 February 11th 5:30pm Adelaide

Darling Downs Angels – Inaugural Lunch
 January 21st 12:30-2pm Toowoomba

SA Angels
 January 27th 5:15pm, Adelaide

Sydney Angels Meeting
 -to be announced-, Sydney

AAAI 2009 CALENDAR

February 18 th , Brisbane	- Clean Technology Investor Forum
February 18 th , Brisbane	- Government Innovation Policy Forum
February 18 th -20 th , Brisbane	- National Angel Conference
February 20 th -22 nd , Teralong	- Angel Retreat
May, Adelaide	- AAAI Summit
August, Perth	- AAAI Summit
November, Sydney	- AAAI Summit

INTERNATIONAL

ACA National Summit
 15-18 April 2009 Atlanta, Georgia, USA

EBAN 9th Annual Congress
 27-28 April 2009 Madrid, Spain

NACO National Angel Summit
 October 2009 Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

WBAA Inaugural Conference
 November 2009



*The Board of AAAI wish you, our members, sponsors
 and friends, a safe and happy festive season.*

*We look ahead to the tremendous opportunity for Angel
 investors to make a valuable and valued contribution to the
 success and prosperity of our nation. The AAAI remains
 committed to helping Australian Angel investors be more
 successful and more efficient in their investments. Investments in
 Australian entrepreneurs who will create jobs and sustainable
 commercial success from Australian innovation.*

May 2009 be a year of joy and prosperity for you and yours.