

**December 15 2010**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ABBOTSFORD CONVENT FOUNDATION

I am writing to thank members of the tenant community for their efforts to help build dialogue with the Board of the Abbotsford Convent Foundation.

Members of the Board are thrilled with the results of the two working parties established six months ago to analyse and discuss tenancy issues raised earlier this year.

The Tenancy Working Party developed an Issues Register which will be monitored and updated to keep track of issues through the regular tenants meetings. This working party also provided a forum to draft a consolidated set of Precinct Rules and a Tenancy Vision.

The Communications Working Party produced a Communications Charter and a series of initiatives to improve communications on the site.

The working parties have now wound up and I would like to personally thank all those tenants, Board members and office staff who participated in the working parties directly or indirectly. The amount of work involved was immense and the results are a credit to all involved.

The dialogue between tenants and the Board will continue with the formation of the Tenant and Site Development Committee, which will focus on the longer term vision and strategy for the Convent. This committee, announced earlier this year and delayed while the working parties did their work, provides an avenue for tenants to give the Board their views on longer-term issues, including the governance of the Convent. The first meeting of the Committee was held last week and it is not too late for other tenants to join. Contact the committee chair Charlotte Allen through [info@abbotsfordconvent.com.au](mailto:info@abbotsfordconvent.com.au)

The last six months have given the Convent community a solid foundation to work more closely together to make our joint vision a reality. Earlier this year, I acknowledged some mistakes in managing the rapid growth of the Convent. The Board and management have been working hard to prepare the Convent for the next phase in the site's development and this means new issues will emerge. This time, however, we have better mechanisms to involve the tenant community and better ways to communicate.

The working party process has been an education as well as a project. Members of the Board feel they have a much better understanding of tenant concerns and dreams. They also believe tenants have learned much about the people on the Board, their roles, their responsibilities and their commitment to the Convent's success.

A new Governance section of the ACF web site is being created to help tenants understand how the Convent is administered and to place on record the results and minutes of the tenant and Site Development Committee as well as key documents relevant to governance and regular messages from the Board.

Over the next few months, the ACF will be developing a new five-year business plan and an updated vision for the Convent. Through the Tenant and Site Development Committee, tenants will have the opportunity to contribute to the plans.

This year has been another outstanding year for activity and creativity at the Abbotsford Convent. Next year and beyond will bring new challenges and I am confident we are better placed to meet them.

Thanks again and on behalf of all Board members I would like to wish you all a happy and creative holiday season.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hayden Raysmith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "H" and "R".

Hayden Raysmith  
Chairman, ACF