

From the Chairman's Desk

### **A Tribute to a Modern Day Opal Pioneer**

Opal Horizon Limited was launched in February 2001 by David Horton (Dave) and a number of colleagues. Dave took on the leading role of Managing Director while others were Board members, at various times. In fact David Hall, who was a founding director and a previous Chairman of the Company rejoined the Board in October 2016.

On 29 November 2016, Dave lost his long battle with cancer and Opal Horizon lost its founding "leader", a man who knew everything there was to know about opal – geology, exploration, mining, processing, marketing and most importantly fund raising.



I first worked with Dave in 1974 at the Geological Survey of Queensland when he and Denise were raising their two young boys, both whom have grown to be young men with families of their own. Dave is greatly missed by Denise and family, but also by those who valued his advice and friendship.

When I took over the position of Chairman in 2012 I met regularly with Dave, discussing not only life, family and current events but most importantly all aspects of the opal business. The Chairman's role of Opal Horizon is one that I have enjoyed, and having Dave around made it more enjoyable.

However, while I never imagined myself in the role of Managing Director the job found me on 29 November 2016 with Dave's passing. Dave and I had spent some months preparing for the transition and while I can say with confidence that we managed a successful knowledge transfer, each day brings new learning opportunities as I experience the many challenging aspects of the job. Even today I walk into the office expecting/hoping to see him sitting at the computer—the man with all the answers.

But we are left not only with his inspirational and aspirational legacy, but a solid foundation upon which Opal Horizon will continue to build as we are poised for success and headed in the right direction.

While we move forward towards achieving Dave's grand vision for the company, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge three very important people who continue to make great contributions to the running of Opal Horizon, especially during this transitional period. They are:

- Suzie Yeates, our Company Secretary / Accountant, who has guided us through a number of relatively painless Audits;
- The ever-smiling Judy Osborne, our long serving Chief Geologist, who guides us through the maze of Government regulations and Native Title;
- Caroline Howrihane, our long serving Office Administrator, who is so popular that she is now working for others who inhabit our floor, but usually is still available to answer the telephone with a cheery English accent.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as can make it at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Siemon', written in a cursive style.

John Siemon

Chairman, Opal Horizon Limited