

# Balloonews

May 2006

ACN 080 636 282

President Ian Shuey Secretary Raymond Connett Treasurer Peter Nikolas

03 6278 1198

0415 689 657

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## NEW BOC Gases National Sales Manager

I just wanted to take the time to say hi and let you know that I have now taken responsibility for the Balloon Gas Territory Managers for BOC. Sam Eedle is the Marketing Manager responsible for all marketing programs and activities.

Tanya Hammond has recently accepted the role of Balloon Gas Territory Manager based in Victoria and Tasmania and has been at BOC for over a year and is well respected within the organisation.

The BOC Contacts in each state are:

**Queensland** - Nikki Davies  
0421 011 001

**NSW** –  
Melissa Ward 0422 002 865

**Victoria, Tasmania**  
Tanya Hammond 0401 718 639

**SA** –  
Allan Bartlett 0401 991 220

**WA** –  
Ian Thompson 0401 991 064

Simon Bishop  
**National Sales Manager**  
**Sureserve**

## Clown Balloons

**Everts range** of novelty balloons is going exceptionally well and available with its own floor stands, which come in either single or four sides. The items are many and various, from spinning balloons, to fill in the dots with pen, to rabbits, elephants, giant worms, and so much more, just ask for a

catalog to see the range or call Chad for chat.

Balloon printing must be getting more and more popular, as Clown report they are flat out printing two shifts a day and orders are pouring in. It may well be partly due to the wonderful quality silk screen printing they do in up to four colours, the fabulously helpful service they offer and the quick turnaround time, due mainly to the fact that they do everything in house, from artwork, screen making, printing to packing in unmarked shiny polypropylene bags of 50 at no extra charge.



Chad Moodie @ ABC 2005  
As they say at Clown Balloons “Just try us once and you will be sold, we never lose a customer, we only make friends”

## Up Grading the Van

So I finally traded my annoying constantly repairing 1997 Transit van for a Mercedes Sprinter and rang the RACQ to change my insurance details.

Ring ring!! Hello RACQ how can I help you, I'd like to transfer my insurance to my new vehicle.

What sort is it? A Mercedes Sprinter.2002. Has this vehicle been modified? Well it used to

be an ambulance it has tinted glass all around and aircon unit mounted on the roof at the rear. What model is it? A 316 CDI I'm sorry there is no such model could you check again. I'm sure and it is an automatic. I'm sorry but they don't make Sprinters in automatic Well lady I drove it and I didn't use a clutch and while we are at, it is also a 5 cylinder diesel. I'm sorry but they don't make a five cylinder! Well why don't I drive it over and if it exists then you'll insure it for nothing. I'm sorry sir but we can't do that. She puts me on hold then comes back and says that she has conferred with her superiors and the best they can do is give me third party property 'cos this must be a highly modified van. Well in that case I need to find an insurer who can help me by the way the next time she is in traffic and there are brightly flashing lights and sirens from an ambulance behind her don't bother moving over as it doesn't exist. I hang up burrrr. Ps, sometimes I look in the rear view and I think I see dead people and the air con is so cold it's like a morgue ha ha . Now as for John at Balloon Agencies in Brisbane who has just purchased a brand new merc B class and rings the RACQ who tell him that there is no such vehicle, but that's another story. Regards Gunter Blum  
Balloons Galore

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## More new products from Contents Giftware:

New picks and spray designs spray. Foil board double sided numbers with hole punch to hang from Balloons. Range includes single number from 0-9 (240mm) and double numbers from 18, 21, 30, 40, 50 & 60. Colour range blue, red, purple, silver, gold & holographic.

Absolutely gorgeous fairies & fairy picks from Europe. A large range of wire fairies, age picks decorated with gorgeous fabrics, beads and sequins. Cheers Kate Clarkson

## Visit the new Z & S Star web site [www.zsstar.com.au](http://www.zsstar.com.au)

## A Way to Look at Balloons



Design by Gemma Smith  
photographer Jamie North,  
Pardalote

I am a Visual Artist working in Brisbane. Her art practice often involves painting and sculpture, and in this instance involved a balloon installation.

The exhibition was held at the McKell building, Rawson Place, Sydney, right next to Central Station. The exhibitions are coordinated by the Government Architects

Office and run for six weeks each.

The 16 glass display cases are positioned on two sides of the building, in groups of three and four. The display cases were built to house bus timetables initially. They are each 150 x 130 cm, and 15 cm deep with metal frames and a simple locking system.

I applied for an exhibition in the space about 18 months before the exhibition. I wrote a proposal explaining what I wanted to do with the display cases. At the time, I was interested in making a series of screen prints, based on recent paintings. On visiting the space six months prior to the exhibition, I decided it would be more interesting to somehow address the space more sensitively, thinking about it's size and depth, as well as the daily commuters and people passing by the space. I came up with the idea of using balloons. The balloons would completely fill the space initially, almost bursting from the cases. Over the course of the five weeks, the balloons would deflate, leaving small blobs of colour, like coloured teardrops pinned to the backboard of the cases. Onlookers would notice a change in the balloon size every couple of days.

After much experimentation, testing and research I decided to go ahead with this plan. It took over 2000 balloons to fill

the cases. I had estimated 1300. This was because I was not able to inflate the balloons as large as I'd hoped and still close the cases. I had to fill up the balloons to two thirds of capacity to ensure the glass cases could be closed. The windows are hinged at the top, and this made the installation process quite difficult. I made enormous bags from tarpaulins and filled up the balloons inside the office foyer. I then dragged them outdoors to the installation site. I attached the balloons to the backboard using a staple gun. I was very lucky that there was absolutely no wind that day.

The installation process had to be done the day before so the balloons would not have time to deflate before the opening. Altogether, it took 16hours and was exhausting.



I was hoping the balloons would all slowly deflate over the course of the six week exhibition. As it turned out, my estimations were fairly accurate. Some of the red balloons on the side of the building with more sun exploded and almost melted within the first week. I had the artwork documented weekly and am yet to compare the images. I used a mix of

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Premier Balloons in pearl, metallic, crystal, fashion and pastel balloons in 30 cm and 12 cm sizes.

I would like to thank **Sanbrook**, Victoria for their generous balloon sponsorship, and **Balloons Galore**, Brisbane, for their extensive advice and sponsorship of balloons.  
**Gemma Smith**

## BASA A President's Annual April 2006 Report to Members.



Ian Shuey with a fashionable balloon hat

**Dear Ballooning Colleagues,** I'm pleased to report a number of very significant developments that have been initiated during my **first year as the BASA A National President.** These achievements have been primarily through the great efforts of BASA A, as well as State Branches. The feedback from members has been excellent, suggesting BASA is enjoying a time of rejuvenation and invigoration. The introduction of **Balloonews** in Aug 05, Nov

05, Jan 06, Mar 06 and again in May 06 has proven a great method of communication and information dissemination for both members, potential new members and our important industry suppliers. I would encourage you to maintain your interest in contributing product information and stories to Balloonews and be proud in prominently displaying copies to customers.

**Accreditation** has been discussed for a number of years as being a factor crucial to the future of our profession. Well done to BASA NSW in taking the lead by initiating three training programs directed by Maureen Egan. I'm sure other States will now follow suit.

**The Desert Mums** project was seen as a means by which BASA can show compassion throughout the country in assisting others in raising awareness toward breast cancer research. The fact that the Desert Mums firstly found BASA in seeking technical assistance in solving a balloon release challenge on top of Big Red in the Simpson Desert is to our credit. Of greater importance was the willingness by members and industry suppliers to respond to the cause through promoting the event within their local communities – well done members.

**Education** remains the cornerstone of BASA objectives and this year has been no exception in States developing and delivering their programs. Of notable importance is the fact that a small number of our industry members at the cutting edge of innovation have generously conducted seminars / workshops in multiple states. Well done to Margie Monk in conducting a very well received program in Victoria [Incidentally – I had the privilege earlier in the year in presenting Margie with a Life Membership Award, in recognition of her outstanding contribution in policy direction and education to BASA since its inception – well done and well deserved Margie]. Industry suppliers have also been very active in sponsoring local and overseas class presenters throughout the country.

I was privileged to be invited to participate in a two-day workshop hosted by BASA NSW and a BASA QLD evening workshops last November and enjoyed the opportunity to meet members and address issues. Congratulations to NSW President Maureen Egan and her committee in hosting a fantastic Christmas party of great fellowship and laughter. Would you believe people from all States rocked up for the great gig !!!]

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## GOLD COAST

Planning for **ABC 2007** is well underway. I believe the Holiday Inn on the Gold Coast will be an excellent property in which can learn and demonstrate our capabilities both within and to the public at large. The fact that the Holiday Inn are almost as excited as we are about the conference speaks for itself. Start your planning for this penultimate *The Art of Balloons* now for 2007.



New accommodation design for 2007 now under construction at Holiday Inn

**Trade Show and Sponsorships** are being finalized and we look forward to a mutually beneficial partnership with all suppliers. For those wishing to contribute to the education, submissions of presenter were due by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2006, details are on the web for late proposals.

**Check out the website for Prices and details on attending ABC 2007**, we are updating the web regularly as information is confirmed.

**YOUR Website** is now overflowing with new

information and initiatives, thanks to the great efforts of Helen Creswell. This year we have endeavoured to provide regular updates of information and events and I encourage you to keep posted on a weekly basis. For instance, check out the very interesting challenge confronting the Desert Mum and what they aim to achieve and I am sure you'll feel very positive and supportive of BASA sponsorship involvement.

The website is also striking a chord with people outside our industry. Organisations such a school groups, new product suppliers and marketing agencies are taking full advantage of sourcing information. We have experienced great success in advising and directing marketing organisations in developing professional designs and using member services throughout the country. This is a win-win situation for the agencies and members. Agencies invariably are confused in selecting the appropriate businesses when working through Yellow Pages, however State Presidents have the local knowledge of advising names of suitable member businesses in their area.

All fees have been paid for our [www.balloonartists.com.au](http://www.balloonartists.com.au) Web site domain.

You are invited to send in pictures of your work, and let

us provide a profile for our members.

The Editor of the **Events and Equipment Magazine** [circulated throughout Australia and New Zealand] has kindly offered BASA A a multi page feature on a Quarterly basis. This represents an excellent opportunity for our decorators and suppliers to promote and demonstrate their capabilities. The journal is designed for those who create and stage events – THAT'S US ! The initial feature was centred around who BASA is and our contribution toward staging events. We are now seeking your great stories and photographic material in making our presence felt.

For your copy contact details below



Correspondence:

PO Box 136, Bulleen.  
Vic. 3105

Tel: +61 (0) 3 9850 6156

Fax: +61 (0) 3 9850 6156

Email

[hiremag@swiftdsl.com.au](mailto:hiremag@swiftdsl.com.au)



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Presidents report cond.

## Developing ties with the Government

Contact with **The Department of State and Regional Development** has provided a source of information for members and this is relating to existing small business workshops and benefits for a business that has been established for several years. Continued communication with this department in each state will benefit all members in the long term.

**BASA A** is looking at assisting the establishing the development of **BASA NZ**. Efforts are underway in strengthening our ties with our Kiwi partners across the Tasman.

To be a partner of the Australasian Association we have made phone calls and expressions of interest have been sent to several of our NZ friends and only time will tell the development of seeing our friends from across the water.

**BASA A** is distributing Balloonews over to Balloon & Party shops in the Black & White Island.

We look forward to seeing support from them and for them.

## Combined Insurance policy for all BASA states and Bi Annual Conventions.

At long last BASA States can now enjoy the assurance and

comfort of knowing their insurance requirements are now covered under a **BASA A** policy. This has resulted in considerable cost savings for State branches, as well as covering **BASA A** activities and in particular our bi-annual conference. The nominal cost will be shared across all states.

The **BASA A** has engaged a qualified **CPA Accountant** to ensure all **BAS** updates and Dept of Fair Trading submissions are completed with our own Greek Treasure looking after and counting the Dollars.

Back after 1995 the **South Australian Association** provided a seed funding for all future Conventions to **BASA A**. Time has now come to transfer those funds back to South Australia for safe keeping. Thanks **BASA SA**.

Each state has been encouraged Update the membership rolls on the web site. If your details are missing or incorrect please contact your state President / Secretary.

We have established links with the **International Balloon Association USA. [IBA]**. This organisation sought our advise on the benefits of **BASA** having both suppliers as well as retailers and decorators within its membership. The Board of **IBA** has subsequently

adopted the **BASA** policy and is now inviting retail / decorator businesses to join the original supplier-only membership. Sean O'Kelly [Balloon Décor in Melbourne] and Mark Bailey from **IBT** in Queensland is to be congratulated on being invited to present at the **IBA** annual convention in March this year. Many of you will be aware **IBAC** completed its 20<sup>th</sup> and final convention in the USA last year. In many respects **IBA** is filling that void.

**BASA A** is now negotiating with **IBA** for **joint reciprocal membership** benefits for our association. This will be a world first to unite with an oversea's association.

**BASA A** is aiming to assist the **National Heart Foundation** with the installation of 4 x 36" Ruby hearts to approximately 34 Hospitals throughout Australia at the end of April.

We have been in touch with each **BASA** state President to assist with the selection of a suitably located member who will helium inflate and display the balloons at the designated hospitals.

Many Thanks to **Qualatex** for their support and assistance to supply and deliver to each location.

Many thanks to our website guru Helen Creswell, Treasurer Peter Nikolas and to all the State Presidents and their respective committees for the great work happening

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throughout our Association and I look forward to a second prosperous year culminating in the ABC 2007 *Art of Balloons* convention of the Gold Coast.

Best regards,

*Ian Shuey.*

## BASA Victoria Full on with Education.



Education to it's members is a big priority to the BASA Vic committee. The April class had lots of enthusiastic question from attendee's and hands on for everyone. The committee's programme for the next few months will include the support of the Premier Education Programme in May

**Melbourne** – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May & Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and the Qualatex Training in June.

**June** 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> The Round and Twisting Tour 2 day workshop from Qualatex: International presenters. Linda Bruce, Sue Marsden Weston and Ken Stillman

**July**- 25<sup>th</sup> July AGM Yelka Jurinovic Possible theme Weddings/Parties for adults? Night session

**August** – TBC

**September** – Rest month

**October** – Visual display merchandising Equipment demonstration

**November** 19<sup>th</sup> - Training day working towards a Christmas themed dinner.

Very hands on. Very social - Location:-Full day.

## Education feast for Australia and New Zealand



Don't miss out on attending what promises to be one of Premier Balloons best ever training classes. From Simple to Simply Spectacular designs - if you haven't booked contact us for our 2 page colour flyer and booking form before you miss out.

Free Call 1800 335 917

Featuring:

- ✓ Jan Iiams – International Balloon Decorator
- ✓ Ray Connett – Leading Australian Balloon Trainer
- ✓ Another Special International guest attending - Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane classes

### PREMIER EDUCATION CLASSES

**Sydney** – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May & Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006

**Brisbane** – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2006 – Day & Evening Sessions

**Melbourne** – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May & Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2006

**Adelaide** – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006 – Day & Evening Sessions

**Perth** – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2006



**THE Very Best BALLOONS**

Coming to a City near you  
**Qualatex Education Seminars** Presents:

The Round and Twisting Tour Everything you have ever wanted to know,

staring : Linda Bruce Sue Bowler (MarsdenWeston) Ken Stillman

<b>6 Cities,</b>	<b>2 days</b>
Sydney	June 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>
Brisbane	June 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>
Perth	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Adelaide	June 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>
Melbourne	June 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>
New Zealand	June 30 <sup>th</sup> & July 1 <sup>st</sup> .

For further details contact 1800 814 634

**Australian Innovative Balloon Technologies, Mark Bailey. Has stepped aside.** Mark will have more time to work in Australia. A talented decorator, presenter and Balloon product innovator.



Mark Bailey (on right) at his trade show stand ABC 2005



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(email sent to Mr Ed)

Lately there has been a great deal of discussion regarding Innovative Balloon Technologies and Mark Bailey. Since he announced his departure from the company he helped to create, some of you have wondered where that leaves all of the decorators and distributors who have come to appreciate the wonderful products that IBT offers.

Since partnering with IBT, West Winds has been committed to bringing you these products and this will continue uninterrupted. We consider them a valuable additions to our product line, and IBT remains a vital and integral part of the balloon community. While we deeply regret that Mark will no longer be working with us, we all wish him the very best and will always respect his considerable accomplishments. We have always valued the input we receive from our customers and we hope that we can count on you now for your feedback. We at West Winds look forward to continuing to bring you the finest quality helium regulators and equipment, as well as all of IBT's phenomenal balloon accessories to help you grow your business. The best is still ahead of us!

Copy from:

Western Enterprises – West Winds Division USA  
Cheryl Sinclair-Andreoli

Desert Mums 21<sup>st</sup> May

Desert Mums to provide our BASA members in the industry the opportunity to promote their individual businesses.

Contact your local President and advise them just how you are going to display your free balloons supplied by our supportive BASA supplier members.

The market is endless, from Restaurants to Motels to Hairdressing and fitness Salons.

Display your business name with the Breast Cancer appeal, show your community support.

Heaps of helium will be sent out to the Simpson desert along with 2500 Printed Balloons for the desert mums to release

Many Thanks for the generous support of The Desert Mums Project.

BASA A would like to Thank the following companies BOC Gases, Clown Balloons, Premier Brands, Qualatex Balloons, Z & Star Enterprises for their support.



THE Very Best BALLOONS



We have also supplied and promoted the environmentally friendly concepts for Desert Mums, who have needed to pass on this information to some non believers.

Count the cylinders

Dear Mr Ed,

My helium supplier has brought to my attention that I have more outstanding cylinders than I really have; I know I gave them back to the driver. What should do? Now he wants me to pay for them and I'm even paying rental, till we sort this out.

Signed : It's costing me.

Dear It's costing me,

This is a tricky situation and I can only advise you to **check and keep all your paper work** for the incoming and outgoing of your rental cylinders.

There is a cost and if you can't prove the return of your bottles then you will need to work out a deal with your supplier.

Mr Ed

**Congratulations** to Jean Michel Lucie of The Balloonery (the inventor of Link O Loons) who recently got married.

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## AN AUSSIE'S ADVENTURES IN BALLOON

### CONVENTIONLAND

A tale by Sean J. O'Kelly

Balloon Décor, Dingley  
Village, Victoria, Australia

**Balloon & Party Convention  
March 9-12, 2006**

It all began late last year when I received an email from IBA's [International Balloon Association] Mark Zettler asking me if I'd be interested in presenting some classes at the Association's inaugural Balloon & Party Convention being held in Chicago, in conjunction with the Halloween and Party Show. Since the demise of IBAC the IBA has taken on the challenge to create a replacement Balloon Convention, same time, same place.

After a few emails to a fro it was decided I would do four classes (everything I know) about Link-O-Loons, my favourite balloon of choice. I set about writing class notes, and scanning old photographs, I'd almost finish my task, several weeks later, when I received another email from the IBA informing me that due to some very confusing (for me) issues the convention committee would now like me to present three different classes ..... great! just what I needed another challenge! The Christmas bells were about to ring and I was to

now purpose three new classes ASAP. To my surprise I did, and to my delight they accepted all three. Now I had to get my notes formatted for two classes on the use of a computer graphics program, CorelDraw, in a balloon business, two classes on fast /easy décor and effects ideas for the small business and one class on balloon sculptures ..... I had hoped it would be easy, ..... it wasn't.

Just to add to the chaos, January and February should, ordinarily be a quiet period for our Decor business, but the rhythm of life must have skipped a beat this year because Edelgard, my wife, had also been commissioned by Premier Balloons to design, construct and install display décor for their latest (our 5<sup>th</sup>) Balloon Album catalogue, before I went away. Everything seemed to be happening at once, it was a compacted time schedule all-round with (thankfully) everything working out and being done on time, but that's another story.

I left home, heading for Tullamarine airport and a four plane link-up to very chilly Chicago on March 8. I arrived at O'Hare Airport 26 hours later on the same day. Less than a half hour after my arrival at the host hotel (five minutes shuttle ride from the convention centre) I saw the

first of many familiar faces, Judy and Dave (Dingo) Bradt. After a quick volley of "G'day mate" they wasted no time introducing me to every loitering presenter and delegate they could find.



Presenters @ IBA

It was not until I actually arrived at the convention centre the next day that I was starting to feel a touch of anxiety. The ground level of the Donald E Stevens, Convention Centre, Rosemont, IL was buzzing with the activity of the setting up process for the Halloween and Party Show. This is one very big party and Halloween trade show ... by 'big' I mean REALLY BIG. The next floors up were the Convention rooms, alive with smell of latex in the morning and the soothing hum of inflating machines in the distance. This was obviously one very serious event and I there I was, about to present my first class at a overseas convention.... It was scary.

'Struth! What've I done?' I thought. ARH! My accent! ..... are they going to be able to understand me? Had I forgotten something, will I remember anything? For a moment, just a moment, I felt extremely

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nervous and a little ill, then gradually as luck had it I kept seeing more friendly faces.



Mardi Gras centre piece

One by one I recognised from (their) past visits to Aus. Jan Iiams, Linda Bruce, Sue Bowler-Marston-Weston her hubby John "Boom Boom" Bowler, Chris Horne, Mary Queen and Graham Rouse, Gary Wells it was great fun chatting and they were all very encouraging. Then there was an Aussie accent echoing across the room from Mark Bailey which helped to remind me that I wasn't the only Aussieboy in town ..... Thanks Mark, I think at least one or two people actually believed your, much appreciated hype enough to attend a couple of my classes.

But the name dropping doesn't stop there, it was a smorgasbord of high profile names like the talented tag-team of Wynn and Lindy Bell, Rick Mohr who so professionally filled in, doing the 260 thing, for Marvin Hardy who withdrew at the last minute because of family reasons and then of course there was the charming

Southern gal Debra Penny and the delightfully naughty boy from Alabama Gary Leadbetter the creator of the Balloon Calculator software.

Just being there amongst it all, meeting and seeing so many new things, checking out cutting edge décor and techniques was great for my first day, and the convention hadn't even started. The opening ceremony was an informal but impressive affair based on acknowledging the many creative talents of Keynote speaker Treb Henning. The only thing more amazing than the DVD presentation about his life was Treb himself. He's come a long way from his days selling balloons at Disneyland.



Armillary Sphere Sculpture

As the days rolled by the competition pieces gradually emerged, and the 'hands-on class' pieces were appearing more often in and outside classrooms. There were classes

on everything from deliveries to centrepieces, from framing to stage props the variety was overwhelming as the long passageway between classrooms were garnished daily with Designer Balloon Art. A technique here, a nifty little trick there, it was inspiring. I couldn't help noticing the similarity to our own Australian Balloon Conventions with interaction between delegates and presenters easily accessible. The friendly, sharing atmosphere helped to reduce my anxiety to just a bit of old fashioned stage freight.

This, the first of what I'm sure will be many conventions showed clearly that the Balloon Revolution is as alive and flourishing on the other side of the world, as it is here in Australia. The IBA, (I hear on the grapevine) are interested in reciprocating some ideas and membership rights between themselves and BASA. The initiative will benefit us all, and the industry's international *educational program* could be taking a giant leap forward very soon, but didn't tell anyone I told you.... O'K?

After 23 years, I am still just as enthusiastic about this industry where balloons are the predominant medium as I ever was. Call me 'looney' if you have to, all I know is that it's still heaps of fun playing with balloons and it looks like it

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only going to get better during the time leading up to the ABC2007 in Queensland, which is to set new standards in Balloon Conventions. Educational opportunities are plentiful over the next 12 months with such a pot pourri of creative inspiration scheduled. It's going to be just like the old days, and we're all going to have to pick up our game .... Just to keep up.



Penguins going to a parade Sculpture.

I can't drop so many names as I have above without mentioning just a few more ..... I promise, then I'll finish. My adventure would not have been possible if it wasn't for the faith IBA itself had in this Kid from DOWNunder. Mark Zettler and his wife Andrea, Matt McKinney and his wife Celini and Marty Fish, without the support from you guys I would have missed one awesome time.

Unfortunately I didn't get a chance to regularly socialise with all presenters, like Linda Berman, Peggy Williams, Cindy Derrick and Shelli Farber, I had to do some work,

but that didn't stop me from observing and learning from them and the large variety of skills displayed by both the other presenters and delegates. It really was an honour and a thrill to have been included amongst them.



Record and iPod Sculpture.

I have to mention once again my dear friends Judy and Dave Bradt once again who provided an endless array of entertainment for me during the week after the Convention in their hometown of Whittier, Los Angeles, USA. I even learnt to like cats ... go figure that one.

By the way, my classes were relatively 'embarrassing mishap' free and seem to have been quite well received, and I have many great memories.. who could ask for anything more? Sean J. O'Kelly

## New Catalogue out Now

**Qualatex** have released their new 2006 Catalogue with 100's of new exciting lines and accessories. Even the good old Aussie flag  
So call Rachelle or the friendly staff for your copy.  
Call 1800 814 634  
Stop Press      Stop Press

## PREMIER BALLOONS

have just released a brand new huge range of high quality balloons.

12cm,30cm,40cm,90cm,  
Also Modelling Balloons -  
160,260,360,630

A fabulous new full colour catalogue and colour chart  
**AVAILABLE NOW!!**

Premier Balloons are launching a new Web Site on the 1st May - with on line ordering!!

New Products just released -  
Licensed Party Product Pack -  
Sonic X and a great new Pirate Party Design.

## Positions Vacant

ABC 2007 committee is asking for people who are interested in supporting the committee at the next BASA A Convention on the Gold Coast. There is a few small jobs and leadership roles which will be very fulfilling for those who can assist.

We are planning some major community involvement and require experienced communicators to get the balloon message across. Some previous professional media skills would be of assistance.

The plans for ABC 2007 are building and the theme is catching the imagination

## *The Art of Balloons*

Call Raymond on  
0415 689 657