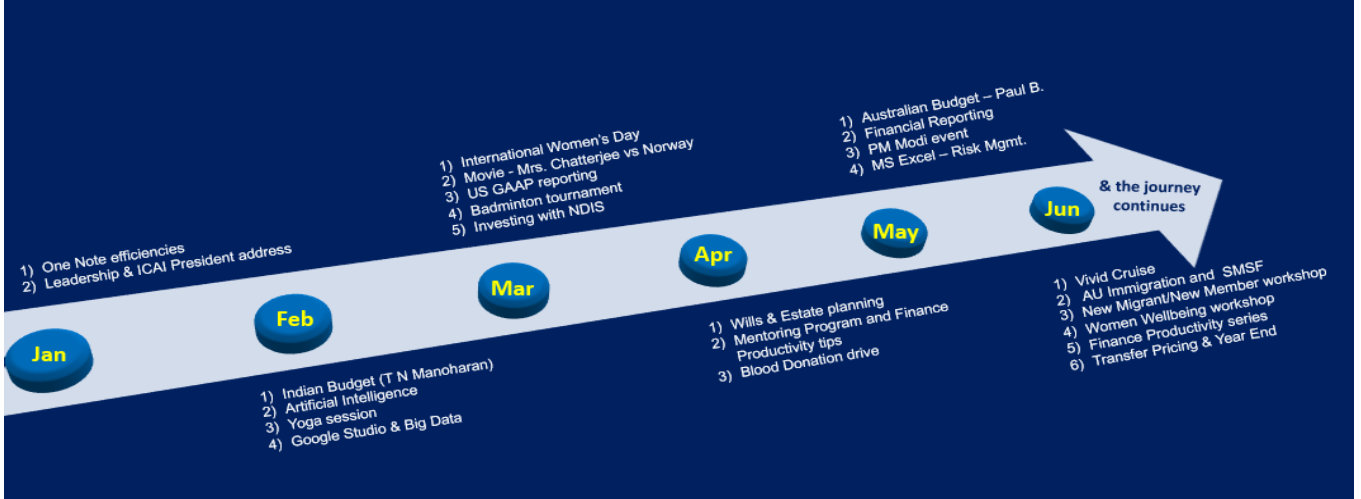


June 18, 2023

From Chairman's desk.....



Dear Members,

Happy Winter!

We are halfway into the year and the Chapter has made huge strides with several member centric initiatives during this period. On behalf of the Management Committee, I am excited to provide an update about the developments to date.

It is pleasing to note that the members' WhatsApp forum is very active, and we sincerely thank you for the professional engagement between all members which is so rewarding and fulfilling the purpose of this forum. However, on many occasions, it has been noted and realised that important messages get lost in the chain and therefore the Committee thought it best to keep you posted on the continuing developments through this update.

We launched the Chapter's **website** in March and the feedback has been incredibly positive. Even the public perception from the business community has been positive as you know that the new website is so intuitive, and we continue to receive good reviews. Please visit the link <https://icai.org.au/my-account/activation> to activate your account if you haven't done so. This step is very important as the system will not allow you to register for any events unless your account is activated. The next stage of development is to launch a new iOS/Android app within the next quarter. This app will enable faster connectivity for you to instantly register for events, set reminders, and interact with other members. Stay tuned for further updates!

As you would have noticed, **our member family is growing**, at least two members are registering every week since last month. We now have over 335 paid members of the Chapter. Our sincere thanks to the Head of our membership team – CA Shantilal Jain and his team of volunteers for their concerted efforts reaching out to ICAI members based in Sydney who previously have not been associating with the Chapter and are now recognising the true benefits of its membership. As you all know that last year, we decided to open membership to CAANZ and CPA Australia and other professionals working in Finance industry. Chapter is also offering six different levels of membership to be more inclusive. We encourage you to pass on our membership brochure to your friends and



get them to become professional associates. Our fees have also been reduced to 50% for all new entrants from June 2023. Please feel free to access the Membership brochure from the membership section of our website www.icai.org.au

In late May, we attended a magnificent event at Qudos Bank Arena, Olympic Park to welcome India's Prime Minister **Hon. Shri. Narendra Modi to Sydney**. It was an amazing event and almost 220+ members and their families participated in this historic event. My sincere thanks to all volunteers who provided administrative support and made members feel comfortable on the day.

Last week we all enjoyed spectacular Vivid Lights from the Cruise and I would say it was one of the best **Vivid Cruise** our chapter ever organised. Members showcased their talent and the performances were outstanding. It was a great family atmosphere which showed that our member community likes to connect socially too. I'm sure everyone had a great evening. Our sincere thanks to the Head of Family and Social Event – CA Dilip Girglani and his team of volunteers for seamlessly managing this event. Enormous effort was put in to make this event memorable and a special one.

CA Divaz group is holding a **female only event** (Women Wellbeing Workshop) on 25th June and I am pleased to inform you that registrations for this event were completed in a record 4 days. We are expecting around 60 female members (including spouses of male members) to attend this event. Right from caterer to speaker and security, this event is a **WOMEN** only event. This event offers a great opportunity to our female members to freely interact, and network. We also will be celebrating accomplishments of our female members and they will be truly recognised for their contribution to the Chapter's growth and development. Our sincere thanks to CA Tanuja Bissa and her team for organising this first ever **WOMEN** only event. CA Divaz group is excited to regularly hold more such events.

I recently wrote to you about the incredible support provided by **Hare Krishna Food For Life West Sydney (HKFFL)** to one of our members in the last two years. We are truly grateful for their support in this challenging time. Continuing this theme, the Chapter is organising a workshop for new migrants and new members on Sunday, 18th June. Registration for this event is now open for new entrants to connect with senior members. My sincere thanks in advance to our learned colleagues for their help and guidance.

The Chapter is also helping new migrants to obtain local accounting degrees. As part of this, the Chapter has been holding **CPA GSL exam (free)** courses for the past few years. Our Ex-Chairman, CA Subbu Subramanian started this initiative and continues to actively lead it. I'm pleased to inform you from the recent batch, our success rate was 100% and four of our members benefited from this course. A member from ICAI Singapore Chapter also benefited as did a few others from India too. Our sincere thanks to Subbu, CA Bindu Mathews, CA Pooja Kamath for their tireless efforts. Our heartiest congratulations to all the candidates across Australia, India, and Singapore for their success. New study batch will commence in January 2024 for April 2024 exam and please feel free to send email to cpagsl@icai.org.au if you would like to join this course.

To provide increased career opportunities to our members, Chapter is planning to organise a **recruitment summit** in the last week of July. Our Vice Chairman CA Nimish Matani and his team of volunteers are leading this initiative and it would be a perfect opportunity to interact with recruiters and understand more about the Australian employment market.

On 1st July 2023, our parent body, **ICAI is completing 75th year of service** and to celebrate this milestone, Chapter is planning to organise a social event. Head of Social and Family Events – CA Dilip Girglani will engage with everyone soon. We are planning to distribute our logo branded T-Shirts to members at a very small fee. More details will be released over the next two weeks.

I am also pleased to inform you that our **Mentoring Program** has kicked off in a style and we have paired 11 mentees with 11 mentors. Given this was a pilot round, it is an incredible response, and our best wishes to those who are participating in this program. This program has been a brainchild of our Vice Chairman, CA Nimish Matani and he together with our Secretary, CA Tanuja Bissa are running this program with tremendous passion and

commitment. I'm sure all participants have signed the required documentation as this program has been structured as improved learning for the members to benefit from and know each other better. I'm sure that the initial meetings have already taken place. The Chapter plans to stage a follow-up session in late July to ensure that the program is delivering the desired results.

Last year on the occasion of Gudi Padwa on 2nd April 2022, **India and Australia signed Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECTA)** and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) is expected to be signed by the end of 2023. The intention of this agreement is to increase bilateral trade relationships from \$25b to \$100b in the next 10 years and increase cultural exchange. Our Chapter has set up a separate division under the leadership of CA Lalit Khanna and we are working closely with the Australia India Business Council (AIBC), Business, NSW and Export Promotion Council of Australia. The core objective of this division is to maximise the outreach of the Free Trade Agreement within the MSME sector and to engage, collaborate, educate, and provide support for increased trade between India and Australia. As part of our engagement, at different occasions, the Chapter representatives met the Chairman of the Centre for Australia-India Relations, Ms. Swati Dave, the Chief negotiator of the ECTA agreement, Ms Francis Lisson, and CEO of Invest India, Ms Priya Ravat. We had invited expressions of interest from members to join this division and I am pleased to inform you that we have received an incredible response and have formed three separate teams so far. They have started working and we will soon be holding events. If you are interested to join, please send an email to partnerships@icai.org.au.

Last month, one of our distinguished members, CA Ashish Dave represented the Chapter in **Indian Budget discussion** session organised by the Consul General of India in collaboration with AIBC. We could not broadcast this event due to the restrictions from the host. The event was attended by over 80 participants and the discussion was focussed on India Australia trade and its growth trajectory across several sectors. Representatives from Export Council of Australia, Business NSW, AIBC participated in this event.

We are closely working with members based in regional cities to increase our strength. Our Chapter played a critical role in establishing **Regional Office (RO) at Adelaide** and the convenors are swiftly working to convert this RO into a new formal Chapter. At this stage, we expect this proposed Adelaide Chapter to be fully operational by September. The Committee aims to model this initiative in Perth, Canberra, and Tasmania as there are a few members and with the growth in migration to these regional towns, the potential to increase our ICAI member community is very promising. Together with the functioning Chapter in Melbourne and Brisbane and these additional Representative Offices, ICAI will have a strong presence in Australia.

As informed to you during the AGM, the Chapter is considering establishing an **Advisory Board** to act as a sounding board for future management committees that will facilitate succession planning and continuing development of the Chapter. Decisions of this board will be non-binding on the present-day committee. Thanks for your responses to our survey and your suggestions. We are collating your feedback and are in the process of constituting the Advisory within the next quarter.

Our **sponsorship** team is working very aggressively and is trying to reach out to new partners. Please feel to reach out to us if you have any leads. The chapter has negotiated a **10% discount** for our members with our catering partners – Colours of India, ChatKaz and Honest. Very recently, Chapter has negotiated a **15% discount** with Delhi Heights (maximum purchase \$400 – dine-in only). You can avail of these discounts by showing your digital membership card which is available under 'My Profile section'. Please take a photo of this digital card and save it on your phone for quick reference.

It is encouraging to say that your Chapter is actively engaging with its members. In this month, alone, there are six events staged, and this work has only been possible with the dedication and passion of our team of volunteers. I'd like to sincerely thank them and their families for their continuing support and commitment. While acknowledging that there is a lot of work underway, the Committee collectively continues to explore new initiatives to support our growing member community. Please feel free to reach out to any of the committee members if you would like to volunteer. This volunteering is a great opportunity for you to develop your leadership, project management, communication, and networking skills and is a way to passionately contribute to the development of our ICAI member community.

We hope you find such updates productive and we, as the managing representatives of the Australian (Sydney) Chapter of ICAI feel happy to keep you well informed of the Chapter's ongoing developments.

Kind regards,

Samir Mehta

Samir Mehta
Chairman

Core Team:

OFFICE BEARERS



Samir Mehta
CHAIRPERSON



Nimish Matani
VICE CHAIRPERSON



Tanuja Bissa
SECRETARY



Mahesh Agarwal
TREASURER



Yogesh Rajput
PROFESSIONAL EVENTS



Dhawal Amlani
COMMITTEE MEMBER

SUB-COMMITTEE



Dilip Girglani
SOCIAL/FAMILY EVENTS



Ravi Sood (JP)
NEW INGRANTS



Shantilal Jain
MEMBERSHIP

PATRONS



Yateender Gupta
FOUNDING CHAIRPERSON