



ABN 49 978 071 714

6 December 2017

Dear Q-Group Members,

I would like to thank each member of the Committee for their efforts and contributions this year. We have had a very busy year, with 24 events held for our members. I'd also like to thank you for attending these events, in some cases presenting at them, and helping us in achieving the goals of the Q Group.

I also want to acknowledge the hard work and contributions of Peter Vann, the inaugural Q Group President. This is the first year since the founding of the Q Group that Peter hasn't been on the committee. Peter will speak about his experiences later in the evening.

Events

As mentioned above, the Q Group held 24 events during 2017, including mini Colloquiums in both Sydney and Melbourne, plus partner events with Monash Uni and RMIT in Melbourne and the Sydney Financial Mathematics Workshop (SFMW). These events were:

- On 8 February, Philip Gharghori spoke at a Melbourne Lunchtime Presentation on examining option-implied volatility, and assessing option traders' perceptions on return and volatility changes arising from stock splits.
- On 15 February, Geoff Warren led the discussion at the Monthly Lunch Series in Sydney on 'Evaluating Fund Capacity: When should a fund stop accepting new money?'
- On 5 March, Simon Elimelakh led a discussion at the Monthly Lunch Series in Sydney on 'Style Factors and How They Affect Global Equity Managers'
- On 17 March, the 2017 Monash-Q Group Colloquium was held in Melbourne. This year the themes of the colloquium included: general banking and finance, quantitative finance, investment strategies, and machine learning.
- On 19 April, Colin Bowers led a discussion at the Monthly Lunch Series in Sydney on 'Programming Languages for Scientific Computing via an Introduction to Julia'
- On 17 May, Roy Shackley led a discussion at the Monthly Lunch Series in Sydney on 'Analytics of the Regulator Monitoring Exchange Traded Markets'
- On 24 May in Melbourne, the Q Group partnered with CSIRO RiskLab to hold a Monthly Seminar titled 'Optimal Decisions in Retirement Planning' presented by Associate Professor Adam Butt of the College of Business and Economics, ANU
- On 28 June in Melbourne, the Q Group partnered with CSIRO RiskLab to hold a Monthly Seminar titled 'How does the Future Fund navigate an uncertain investment environment?' presented by Nigel Wilkin-Smith
- On 20 July, the Q-Group Sydney Half-day Colloquium was held. The event featured four speakers.

- On 3 August, a mini-Colloquium on Superannuation was held in Melbourne. The event featured four speakers.
- On 16 August, John Bowers led a discussion at the Monthly Lunch Series in Sydney on 'If you can actually generate alpha, what is the best business model to exploit your skill?'
- On 11 September, Daniel Chai and Mardy Chiah spoke at a Melbourne Lunchtime Presentation on 'A better model? An empirical investigation of the Fama-French five-factor model in Australia'
- RMIT's Finance Day was held on 22 September in Melbourne with 8 guest speakers. This was free for Q Group members.
- On 27 September, John Peterson led a discussion at the Monthly Lunch Series in Sydney on 'Assessing the Consistency of Manager Performance'
- On 27 September in Melbourne, Paul Murphy spoke on 'How Australia Saves – Landmark Vanguard Research Report'
- Olivier D'Assier, Managing Director of Applied Research for APAC at Axioma, spoke at events in Sydney and Melbourne on 10 and 12 October. His topic was 'Market Insights from the Risk Side of the Coin'
- Dan diBartolomeo, Founder and President of Northfield Information Services spoke at events in Sydney and Melbourne on 9 and 10 November. His topic was 'Why is volatility currently so low?'
- The AGM and Sydney Christmas Dinner will be held on December 6 (i.e. tonight!)
- The Melbourne Christmas Lunch will be held on December 7

Our monthly lunches in Sydney where a member introduces a topic on a subject of their interest, followed by discussion, continued successfully this year. In Melbourne, we started a partnership with CSIRO RiskLab. It is a great success with CSIRO RiskLab happy to share their lunchtime seminars and their research network with Q Group members.

In conjunction with Sydney Financial Mathematics Workshop (SFMW), the following events were also available for Q Group members to attend:

- On 11 September, David Garvin from CBA spoke about 'An introduction to the theory of Quantum Computing'
- On 16 October, Peter Thompson from ANZ spoke about 'The FRTB PnL Attribution Test'
- On 6 November, Imanuel Costigan of Westpac spoke about 'Model Risk: A Primer'

In addition to the above events, Northfield Information Services kindly offered Q Group members the opportunity to attend their annual 'Sydney Seminar - Research on Investment Management and Risk' on November 8.

Oscar Tian took on the role of Melbourne Committee member and event coordinator this year. Many thanks to Oscar, and the Melbourne sub-committee team of Andrew Gruskin, Philip Gharghori, Farzad Alavi Fard and Dennis Sams for all their work in organising so many interesting events in Melbourne. Thanks also to Colin Bowers for organising the Monthly Lunch Series in Sydney.

After a number of years being actively involved and on the committee both here in Sydney and in Melbourne Farzad Alavi Fard has decided to take a break from the Q Group committee this year. Farzad built the relationship we have with RMIT and we appreciate his contributions.

One thing I would like to highlight is the support we've received throughout the year. There can be a conflict between business wants and the Q Group, as a professional organisation, but we are fortunate to have groups that are willing to support the discussion, discovery and research nature of the Q Group. In particular I wanted to acknowledge the support of Northfield Information Services, CSIRO Risklabs, Monash University, RMIT University, UTS, Macquarie Applied Finance Centre and the CBA for providing a venue for the SFMW. Next year we are hosting a joint event with the Institute of Actuaries and we hope that it will result in a long and fruitful partnership.

Treasurer

Derek Condell resigned mid year as Treasurer. We thank Derek for his long contribution to the Q Group. Graciously Colin Bowers was willing to fill in as Treasurer for the remainder of 2017. Thank you Colin!

I've placed copies of Colin Bower's Treasurer's Report on the table, but in summary our expenditure exceeded income by \$3,345. This was due to funding the large number of events held this year. Total funds in the bank are \$67,610.

Membership

We have 67 current paid members, a mix of Sydney (33), Melbourne (26), Other Cities (4) and Students (4). We also have 8 Overseas members registered.

AGM

Apologies

Chris Condon, Frank Ashe, Roy Shackley

2016 AGM Minutes

To be accepted by the attendees.

Election

We have nominations from:

Stewart Wright (President)
Rob Trevor (Vice President)
Colin Bowers (Treasurer)
Stewart Wright (Public Officer)
Roy Shackley (Secretary)

Other committee members:

Erik Schlogl (SFMW)

Melbourne representative:

Oscar Tian

Melbourne Sub Committee:

Andrew Gruskin
Philip Gharghori
Dennis Sams

AGM 2016 Minutes

Held at Prime restaurant, GPO Sydney.

1. President read his report. Of note he thanked Committee members. Also that we achieved our goal of having more Events in 2016.

We aim to continue that theme and also increase membership.

Thanked our guest speaker Ron Bewley for speaking tonight.

2. Treasurer's Report was read out. It was noted that we had an increased number of members this year. We received membership fees from 59 people (43 in 2015).

We are up-to-date with our Trademark logo, Dept of Fair Trading NSW annual lodgements, and we are up-to-date with the Tax Department.

Derek thanked Sue Wright for the very good work done on the accounts, membership and general administration.

3. AGM
All Committee member positions were declared vacant.

Nominations in Sydney comprised of 2015 committee members.

All were elected unopposed.

4. A beautiful 3 course dinner with 3 choices each course and fine wines was enjoyed by all.
5. Ron Bewley gave an enlightened speech discussing Data Science, what it means and how a rose is still a rose by any other name.

Stewart Wright

President