

Continuing your Grant Thornton journey

Edition One May 2011

# Alumni News

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## Message from the CEO

Bigger, Better, Brighter

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this, our first Grant Thornton alumni newsletter.

These days, networking – connecting with people in the know – is more important than ever. As a result, the objectives of the Alumni program are to enable former Grant Thornton people to stay in touch with our organisation, reconnect with their former colleagues and make valuable business contacts through the Grant Thornton Alumni Program. Our people, both past and present, are what makes the difference to our business and sets us apart from our competition. I therefore want to thank you for being part of our Alumni Program. I hope you will consider actively participating through our events programme and also by contributing articles to this newsletter.

In this first edition we look at what has been going on in and around the office, both from a social and a professional perspective. We also provide details on forthcoming events, as well as updates on current and former employees.

Grant Thornton has changed significantly, both locally and internationally, in recent years, and may be very different to the firm many of you may be familiar with. From the decision in Australia to move from separate partnerships in each state to a single national firm, to the global rebrand in 2008, and the global adoption of a common vision and common values. By having 30,000 people in over 100 countries working collaboratively, we strive to achieve the vision of having “**empowered** people providing **bold** leadership and **distinctive** client service worldwide”. 2011 promises to be an exciting and challenging year, and we look forward to updating you on the firm through these newsletters.

I wish you a successful 2011, and look forward to catching up at the next Sydney event on 8<sup>th</sup> June.



Robert Quant  
Chief Executive Officer  
Grant Thornton Australia

May 2011



## Grant Thornton Sydney's inaugural alumni event- November 2010

On Thursday 10 November 2010 Grant Thornton Sydney held their first bi-annual Alumni event. The event held in the Darwin boardroom on level 17 at Grant Thornton offices on Kent Street was attended by over 45 alumni members.

It has been a very busy year for all Grant Thornton Australia offices so Matt Adam-Smith, Office Managing Director, had a lot of news to update attendees.

Much reminiscing and laughter was stimulated with the photo slide shows of past Grant Thornton occasions. We would like to thank everyone who attended and we hope you can make it to the next one.

**Save the date for our next Sydney alumni event on June 8<sup>th</sup> –** formal invitations will be sent nearer the time.



Lyn Davis, Angela Pyrgiotis, Julieann Breese



Vanessa Ball, Karen Gilman, Ric Moffitt, Vittoria Borazio, Steve Ball



Robert Quant, Karl Cope, Nicole Bradley, Brian Treleven



Graham Watman, Matt Adam-Smith, Michael Glendinning



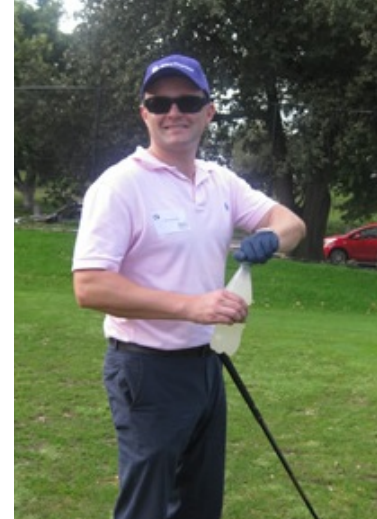
Alisha Day, Shevaun Kennedy, Lauren Evans

## Alumni member profile

### Fraser Ronald

March 2001 - June 2007

### Recovery and Reorganisation, Sydney



Fraser started off as a graduate, working for “Tall” Paul Billingham, in R&R, and left after 6 years as a Senior Manager.

He is now the Operations Leader for GE Capital Fleet and Equipment Finance ANZ and looks after a team of 90 staff spread over 2 countries and 5 locations, who run the day to day operations of Custom Fleet and GE Capital Equipment Finance.

#### **What are some of your memories of Grant Thornton?**

The most memorable (although slightly foggy) were the Christmas parties and end of year functions, one being on a very, very windy night on a boat in Sydney harbour, I was wearing a Kilt...it wasn't pretty!!

Also, when I started we had a pretty small team of about 8, and it grew over the years, I think there were about 25 in R&R Sydney when I left, which is a great growth story...we must have been doing something right!

#### **Are you still in contact with staff and/or former staff of Grant Thornton?**

I still have lots of contact with lots of the guys, Neil Cooke (Director CF) and Gayle Dickerson (Director R&R) are 2 of my best mates, and I still speak to a few of the other R&R guys regularly – Paul, Trevor, Said and David Osborne.

#### **What are some of your career highlights since leaving Grant Thornton?**

I left GT, at the time to push myself outside of my comfort zone, which was a personal choice for myself, nothing to do with GT. This led me a great role at GE, where I set up a “Work-out” area for GE's higher risk customers. This then led me to my current role, which is totally different again, but builds upon some of the great things I learnt at GT -

professionalism, attention to detail, leadership and to have fun!

#### **What's your ultimate career goal?**

For me, it's all about enjoying what you do, feeling positive and energised – I really love a challenge and a bit of pressure, as long as I can get this from a job I will be pretty happy – it does not really matter what the role is or the industry, it's about the challenge and ability to make a difference.

#### **What's your ultimate personal goal?**

To keep the balance of work, life and fun.

#### **What do you do to relax?**

I play football (sorry..soccer), golf and I am running another marathon this year.

**The last book I read was.....** The Wolf of Wall Street, Jordan Belfort

**The last film I watched was.....**The Kings Speech (on the plane to Auckland)

**My hero is.....** William Wallace, closely followed by Sean Connery!!

#### **What's the best career advice you've been given?**

“This is not a practice for the next time” – Jack Crumlin

#### **Any regrets?**

I think you always have to look forward not backwards, having said that if I had worked out what's really important to me a few years ago, I may have made a few different choices, however it's all experience!!

## Grant Thornton what's happening

### Events

#### 2011 Federal Budget - what does it mean to your business?

The 2011 Federal Budget will be announced on the evening of Tuesday 10 May. Grant Thornton will deliver a concise and insightful analysis of the key budget announcements over breakfast on **Wednesday 11 May**. We would be delighted if you could join our team for an in depth panel discussion of the impacts of the budget.

#### Melbourne

##### Time

7:00am registration  
9:00am seminar will conclude

##### Venue

Peninsula, Shed 9 Central Pier, 161 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands

##### RSVP

Tania Thomas  
T 03 8663 6195  
E [Tania.thomas@au.gt.com](mailto:Tania.thomas@au.gt.com)

#### Sydney

##### Time

7:00am registration  
9:30am seminar will conclude

##### Venue

Ivy Room, Building 2, 320-330 George Street, Sydney

##### RSVP

Lauren Parker  
T 02 8297 2699  
E [lauren.parker@au.gt.com](mailto:lauren.parker@au.gt.com)

**What's New breakfast seminar** – keeping you up to date on the latest tax and accounting issues

##### Venue

Grant Thornton offices, Level 17, 383 Kent Street, Sydney

##### RSVP

Hope Steel  
T 02 8297 2743  
E [hope.steel@au.gt.com](mailto:hope.steel@au.gt.com)

### Thought leadership

#### Grant Thornton/RVA Retirement Living Survey.

In light of our ageing population, demographic shifts and changing market drivers, this is a timely review of the evolution of seniors' housing in Australia. This research explores not only the current state of the market, but contrasts the changing expectations of future generations of consumers. [Click here](#) to view the survey.

#### Biotechnology: Industry position survey 2011

Grant Thornton and AusBiotech are committed to working with participants in the biotechnology industry to address issues of importance to them. We are proud to present the findings of our 2011 CEO Industry Position Survey which provides a comprehensive view of issues affecting the industry. [Click here](#) to view the survey

Grant Thornton's bi-monthly newsletter for corporate and listed businesses, **Summit** examines a range of topics relevant to these organisations in Australia. [Click here](#) to read the articles on our website.

Grant Thornton's **Industry Intelligence Units** blend the latest information and analysis of specific industries drawn from publicly available sources (including the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the national press) with pragmatic, commercial and practical initiatives to improve stakeholder value.

The edition in March focussed on Legal Services ([click here](#))  
The latest edition in May focussed on Hospitality ([click here](#))

### Speaking out: Australia bucks global trend of declining female representation in senior management positions

The number of women in senior management positions in Australian privately held businesses has grown four per cent since 2009, contradicting the global trend. According to the latest results of the **Grant Thornton International Business Report (IBR)**, Australian privately held businesses are ahead of global trend with 27 per cent of senior management positions being held by women, ahead of the global average of 20 per cent.

“We all have a part to play and there are a number of initiatives privately held businesses can pursue to address the shortage of women in senior management positions. Some of these include developing ‘family friendly’ policies and offering flexible work practices,” said Nicole Bradley, Director of Audit and Assurance at Grant Thornton Australia and leader of the firm's Women's Initiative.

Grant Thornton recommends implementing mentoring and sponsorship programs, with a focus on actively developing female employees' skills.

## Alumni boomerang: Paul Harris

Paul joined Grant Thornton in 1999 as an Executive and founding member in our Corporate Finance team. He left in 2001 to take up an opportunity in our London office, returning home to Sydney in 2010.



### What were some of your career highlights after you left Grant Thornton?

Being in London when Australia won the Ashes 5-0 – does that count?! Also being a core part of the team that won HealthInvestor “Accountant of the Year” in 2009 and 2010.

### Why did you come back?

Opportunity to bring back skills I’d learnt overseas to help the Australian practice grow.

### What’s your ultimate career goal?

To be a Director at Grant Thornton (of course).

### What’s your ultimate personal goal?

To run a marathon sub three hours.

### If you didn’t work in corporate finance what would you do?

Travel guide.

**The last book I read was...** a book about dragons with my niece.

**The last CD I bought was...** actual CD was “101 greatest Australian tracks” for an Australia Day party.

**My favourite travel destination is...** I can’t pick just one – Croatia, Iceland and Central America.

### What’s the best career advice you’ve been given?

If you don’t ask, you don’t get.

### Three things you take to a desert island?

- \* Hammock
- \* Football
- \* Endless bottle of white rum (for the mojitos!)

**My hero is....** Ranulph Fiennes - Adventurer

**My favourite joke is...** Why does a Frenchman only have one egg for breakfast? Because one egg is an ouef.

### If you could invite five guests to a dinner party who would they be and why?

- \* Winston Churchill – for his quotes and stories
- \* Richard Branson – for more stories
- \* Clint Eastwood – got to have a bit of Hollywood but someone who can also entertain
- \* Usain Bolt – why not he’s the fastest man on earth
- \* Lady Gaga – for the entertainment?

**To relax I...** play sports and enjoy travelling.

### Any regrets?

Diving out too early when running with the bulls in Pamplona. Also flying back to the office from Germany during the 2006 World Cup instead of going to the game. When I got back to the office no-one actually expected me to come back - gutted!

### Want to reconnect with Paul?

Paul’s email is [paul.harris@au.gt.com](mailto:paul.harris@au.gt.com)

Perhaps next time you’ll be on his dinner party guest list.

## Grant Thornton Brisbane Alumni Event March 2011

On Wednesday 30 March 2011, Grant Thornton Brisbane held its sixth Alumni event. The event was held in the function centre on the Ground Floor of Grant Thornton House.

It has been a very busy year for all Grant Thornton Australia offices so Dan Carroll (Director of Audit and Assurance) had plenty of news for all who attended on the night.

All in all it was another great night at Grant Thornton. We would like to thank everyone who attended and we hope you can make it to the next one (date to be confirmed).



Dan Carroll and Kylie Simpson



Mark O'Hare, Mick Casey and Tom Tulley



Justin Byrne, Tony Markwell, David Gibson and Blake Joppich



Sam Murphy, Paul Banister, Emma Hawes, Phil Abood, Tanya Jackson



Alana Weight and Joe Box

## Grant Thornton staff activities

### Community Spirit

We were all shocked by the floods in Queensland earlier this year. Our Brisbane office was shut for a week, but we are pleased to be able to tell you that all our staff are safe and well.

Grant Thornton has held fundraising events in each of our offices. Contributions from our staff have been overwhelming, our total donation to the Queensland Premier's Flood Relief Appeal was **\$67,000**.

While Queensland starts the long cleanup process following the recent devastating floods, we are aware that many people and organisations are in need of assistance. We have prepared a short guide to surviving the immediate crisis and the support available to you through various assistance programs supported by government and industry. The guide is called the **Essential Flood Recovery Guide** and can be located on our website.

<http://www.grantthornton.com.au/Issues-and-Challenges/SurvivingTheFlood.asp>



Christmas Party – Austin Powers themed (yes that is Director Adam Field and Matt Adam-Smith Sydney's Managing Director!)

### Chinese New Year Dragon Boat Regatta – February 2011



2011 Firm Day Out at Randwick Races, Sydney. Some very happy winners!

## Current Director Profile

### Andrew Archer 1987- current

### National Service Line Leader –Audit and Assurance

**Age/DOB?** 41

**Education:** Parkes High School (yes home of "The Dish"), Bachelor of Business, UTS, FCA

**Family?** Married to Helen (who is English), with 3 children Ellie (aged 7), Sophia (aged 5) and James (aged 3).

**Interests outside of work?** Family, BBQs, travel and sport! Supporting my teams (cricket, league, soccer and rugby), encouraging the kids and the odd game of indoor soccer or golf.

**Why did you join Grant Thornton?** Compatible – right size and people. Mind you recruitment has changed a bit – I was offered the job on the spot and we spent much of the interview talking about cricket!

**Years with Grant Thornton?** Over 24 years and it has gone so quickly – over 12 years as a Director, 2 years on secondment in London, 6 months on secondment to a client and 6 years studying for my degree/CA.

**Career highlights?** Bowling out Ric Moffitt (OMD at the time) in my first office cricket game (was told it was a career limiting move), my UK secondment, becoming a partner at only 29, appointments to the UIG and ICAA Council, leading the ICAA training on the IFRS roll out and most recently becoming NSLL.

**Future challenges?** Driving the continued growth of the audit practice such that we are market leaders and the clear alternative to the Big 4.

**Any funny stories from your 20 plus years as an auditor?**

Many, including:

- My first stocktake was at an abattoir (including the slaughter room). The Big 4 auditor acting for the acquirer turned up in his beige suit and happily accepted my counts!

- Auditing Spice TV when I was in the UK – the asset register made interesting reading.

- One of my partners did a prank call on speaker whilst I was seconded to a client – he acted as an angry customer who was blind and said his creepy krawly pool cleaner kept jumping out of the pool at him and that I needed to fix it right away! The team back in the office couldn't control their laughter.

**What do you enjoy most about your role?** Variety – in particular working with interesting clients to find solutions to their issues. And of course celebrating our successes!

**What is the craziest thing you have done?** Probably running with the bulls in Pamplona.

**Who would you most like to meet & why?**

Again tough choice – Steve Waugh as he was so determined and inspirational or Bono for championing issues through his music.



## Where are they now?

### Matthew Barilla 2003 - 2009

I started at Grant Thornton as a cadet in the then Entrepreneurial Business Services (EBS) Group, eventually moving to the Audit Division.

In October 2009, I took up a newly created role as Group Financial Accountant of the St Vincent de Paul Society (NSW) also known as 'Vinnies', one of Australia's largest charities. I am based at our State Office in Lewisham, however our most visible presence includes our 240+ shops (centres of charity) and much valued special works, which includes the Matthew Talbot Hostel in Woolloomooloo.

My role is diverse including statutory reporting, managing the group year-end audit, monthly group management reporting, controls, taxation and other project work.

Thank you to Grant Thornton (and especially Matt Adam-Smith) for supporting the 2010 Vinnies CEO Sleepout and continued support going forward, helping us assist those whom need it most.

For more information on Vinnies please visit [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)

### Martin Doyle 2007 – 2010

Following a fantastic couple of years at Grant Thornton as Catering Coordinator, it was time to go into business again for ourselves.

In a space of 8 weeks, my partner and I had bought a business in Tassie, sold our home of 20 years in Bondi and moved to Hobart to live.

It's been an action packed year taking over Apartments on Star on April Fool's Day! - upgrading facilities, becoming an Accredited Australian Tourism Business and achieving a 4 Star rating. It's a totally hands on business and the rewards of return customers has made it worthwhile. With the help of a new website and key advertising locations, we've managed to increase the business and are looking very healthy for the coming year with good solid forward bookings.

And Hobart ..... well it's certainly a much slower pace of life, friendly locals, nothing too far, dreadful drivers, great cafes, bars and local produce. Temperatures ranging from 10 – 25C and that's in the one day of summer! Surrounded by bush and water, wineries and MONA, as the tourism brochure says, Hobart, the way life should be.....

Mention Grant Thornton if you're thinking of a winter break away and we'll give you the best possible rates.  
[www.apartmentsonstar.com.au](http://www.apartmentsonstar.com.au)

### Karl Cope 1998 - 2002

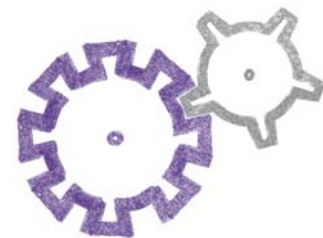
I worked at Grant Thornton Sydney in Ken Gunderson-Brigg's team as a Senior Manager in the Business Services Division from 1998 to 2002. In 2002 I accepted the role of Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary with a publicly listed company in the automotive industry. In 2006 I moved into my current role of Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary of Scott Corporation Limited ("Scott Corp") based in Sydney.

Scott Corp is a publicly listed company operating in the road transport industry. Scott Corp is a national carrier with unrivalled expertise in the transportation of bulk solids and liquids by road, rail and sea. Our two main operating divisions cater for a diverse range of transport and logistics needs. Chemtrans carries dangerous goods, liquids and chemicals, while Bulktrans carries dry bulk goods including coal, agricultural and waste products. My role covers the traditional responsibilities of a CFO and Company Secretary, but as a relatively small cap public company, I am also responsible for our Human Resources, Commercial and IT functions.

Whilst at Grant Thornton I commenced my MBA at the Macquarie Graduate School of Management which I completed in 2003. Subsequent to that I completed the Company Directors Course in 2009 with the Australia Institute of Company Directors.

Outside of work I am kept busy with my growing family that includes my wife Emma, and two children, Mitchell (6) and Madeline (3 in April), our 50% interest in a surf shop in Byron Bay called Maddog Beach Surf Centre and my voluntary directorship with the Mighty Jets – the Newtown Rugby League Club Limited – the first and oldest rugby league club in Australia.

I have nothing but fond memories of my time at Grant Thornton and keep in regular with many past and present employees and partners. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities for development that were provided to me, and the friendships gained, during those years. <http://au.linkedin.com/in/karlcope>



## It's your alumni

### Benefits to alumni members

Apple and Grant Thornton Australia Ltd are pleased to announce the introduction of the Employee Purchase Program, which provides preferred pricing on the latest Apple products and accessories to Grant Thornton employees and alumni members.

Program benefits:

- Special employee pricing on Apple products
- Exclusive promotions
- Free shipping on all products
- Free engraving on all new iPod models
- Mac customisation
- Ratings and reviews on accessories and software

For more information please visit

[store.apple.com.au/epp/grantthornton](http://store.apple.com.au/epp/grantthornton) or call 1300-300-308

### Refer others to join

Our alumni programme is still in its infancy and our aim is to reconnect with as many past colleagues as possible. We need your help to pass on our joining form to past colleagues you may be in touch with that we haven't been able to reach.

Alumni membership is open to all previous employees of Grant Thornton Australia, whether you were with us for 6 months or 20 years, we'd love you to continue your Grant Thornton journey.

### Save the date – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Our next alumni event to be held in Sydney will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Put the date in your diary now!

Times are to be confirmed, but it will be an after work event.

We hope to see you there!

### We'd love to hear from you

We want these newsletters to be about you. If you would like to be featured in our next edition, scheduled for the Spring please get in touch.

Ways to be featured:

- Alumni Member Profile
- Where are they now?

It could be a great way to promote your business whilst reconnecting with other alumni members.

For more information please contact:  
Fiona Drake, Market Engagement Manager  
[fiona.drake@au.gt.com](mailto:fiona.drake@au.gt.com)  
+61 (0)2 8297 2522

### Fly like a boomerang!

Inspired by Paul's interview? Would you like to return to Grant Thornton? Please check out the careers section on our website [www.grantthornton.com.au/careers](http://www.grantthornton.com.au/careers) to view current vacancies across Australia.

### Getting in contact with other alumni members

Unfortunately due to data protection laws we can't list alumni member's contact details.

However we'd be happy to contact an alumni member on your behalf and facilitate an introduction. Simply email Fiona Drake at [fiona.drake@au.gt.com](mailto:fiona.drake@au.gt.com) with the name of the person you'd like to reconnect with.

The best way to reconnect with other alumni members is to attend one of our future events!

## Did you know?

Some of you may have left Grant Thornton recently and will know how the firm has developed, but for some of our more long term alumni we wanted to keep you up to date on changes to Grant Thornton Australia and Grant Thornton International and also let you know about some of our awards.

**Grant Thornton Australia is one national firm with over 800 staff nationally**

**Grant Thornton International is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest accountancy organisation in the world**

**Grant Thornton International comprises of over 30,000 people**

**Global strategy, global values, global brand, global tools and methodologies**

**Grant Thornton members firms operate in over 100 countries**

**Grant Thornton Australia has offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney**

**Finalist in Debt Market Deal of the Year in the 2010 Australasian Law Awards**

**APAC Venture Capital deal of the year, 2010**

**Finalist in Restructuring Deal of the Year in the 2010 Australasian Law Awards**



Auditor of the Year (Large Six) 2010, Highly Commended Auditor of the Year (Large Six) in 2009 and Winner in 2008 and 2007



Accountancy Firm of the Year M&A Awards 2010



Best Tax Investigations Team (2010), (2009, 2008 and 2006) and Best High Net Worth Team (2007)



Accountancy Age Awards 2010 Audit team of the year - Not for Profit



Institute Canada – Best workplaces 2011



Working Mother 100 Best Companies Best in Class Top 10 2009



AIM Accountant of the Year 2010 and Accountant of the Year 2009 Growth Company Awards



Number 1 accounting adviser on IPOs in Australia in 2008