



December, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

As Christmas fast approaches and 2011 nears to a close I would like to take a moment to reflect on the year just past.

We have certainly had an exciting year and 2012 looks even more promising.

Judy Howard took over the reins as CEO/Country Leader in January and John Thornton retired after 10 years at the helm.

SIFE Australia continues to develop new partnerships and business relationships which I am sure will serve to grow and strengthen, and in June I was pleased to host our current Board members and partners, as well as a number of other business colleagues at a cocktail function generously sponsored by KPMG;

Another successful National Conference and Championships was held in Sydney and it was the first year of the new judging criterion. A total of 22 universities participated; 6 more universities sent observers; a total of 369 students and faculty attended, and 107 judges were involved in judging the 3 rounds of competition. It was also pleasing to note that senior academics (including 2 Vice Chancellors) from 4 of the participating universities attended this year;

The University of Melbourne went on to admirably represent Australia at the SIFE World Cup in Kuala Lumpur.

My appreciation and thanks go to all who participated in the SIFE program of activities for 2011 as students, Faculty Advisors, Regional Coordinators, scrutineers, judges, league coordinators, workshop facilitators, organisers and volunteers.

My thanks also go to all our Board members who gave of their time and expertise to contribute to a very successful year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone and your family a very safe and happy Christmas and look forward to your continued support in 2012.

Yours Sincerely,



Mark G. Smith

FAMI CPM FAIM MAICD

Chairman, **SIFE Australia Ltd.**

