

## { LETTER FROM THE ACT PRESIDENT }

## JONO SLADE

Time please... Why it's important to make space for the things that matter

Go into any Hollister clothing store and you will be greeted by the customary: "Hey, what's up?" The surf at Huntington Beach Pier is one obvious answer. Ask a cartoon fanatic and you are likely to be reminded that you missed off the 'Doc' at the end. Ask someone in the treasury function at this time of year and you are likely to get a whole raft of different answers. So, what's up in your world?

Are you going into the Christmas period feeling good about your past year's achievements? Are you still madly busy ensuring that an important transaction will close before the year end? Are you working on next year's budget and financing plans? Are you worried about further poorly conceived regulation that will cause you and your treasury colleagues no end of heartache in the year ahead, and yet not achieve what it set out to prevent? Are you up to date in your studies and/or training? Are you and your staff still motivated or distracted by yet another round of reorganisations?

Finally, are you ready for all the potential hazards of Christmas? The overeating and drinking; the undercooked turkey; those uninvited guests who drop around for lunch on Boxing Day; what presents to buy your loved ones; or the pending New Year's resolutions?

In our busy lives, the Christmas holiday period provides a real opportunity

to reward ourselves with one of today's most precious and scarce commodities... time.

⌚ **Time to think**  
 ⌚ **Time to listen**  
 ⌚ **Time to observe**  
 ⌚ **Time to reflect**  
 ⌚ **Time to laugh**  
 ⌚ **Time to cry**

⌚ **Time to love**  
 ⌚ **Time to recharge**  
 ⌚ **Time to learn**  
 ⌚ **Time for space**  
 ⌚ **Time for patience**  
 ⌚ **Time to enjoy**

I think we deprive ourselves of these during the year and yet they provide the very ingredients for us to enrich our lives and to meet and conquer our daily challenges. I know I am guilty of this at times. Are you? Why not take a moment now to put this right? I'm giving you an opportunity by leaving this reading gap, so there are no excuses. Please give it some proper time and don't waste it.

So, how did you do? Were you able to forget the pressures of the day job and focus on yourself? How could you build some time gaps into your daily routine? For some, it might be a quiet period at the start or end of the day, while for others it could be an hour at the gym or pool. On my part, I have changed my commute to add a one-and-a-half-mile walk each way, giving me some 'my time'. So before you move on to reading some of the other articles in this issue of *The Treasurer*, I encourage you to explore what's right and works for you. After all, it is 'your time'.

Please enjoy your time over the holiday period, however you spend it, and stay safe.

All the best for 2014. ♥

*Jono*

