

The global Covid-19 pandemic of the last six months of 2020 has brought us all some interesting personal challenges and has demanded the emergence of new ways of doing business. The Covid-19 crisis has also brought excessive financial hardship to many in both business and individuals, as unemployment figures rise and, particularly small businesses, fall to the wayside. In difficult times such as these we often see an increase in fraudulent behaviours ranging from blatant theft to creative accounting, as people try desperately to keep their lives together. As such it falls to us, as anti-fraud and financial crime professionals to remain vigilant and up to date with emerging logistical and operational challenges which can underpin an opportunity and a rationalisation to commit fraud.

Due to the social distancing restrictions that the Queensland Government has had in place, our Chapter has had to abandon our in person meetings over the last few months. Your committee is trialling a new virtual platform (Webex) as a means to deliver meetings in the near future. This will mean that we can still provide an opportunity to members to maintain currency of the CDE. For those of you who may be concerned about your CPE, the ACFE offers CPE Quiz's to earn extra 10 CPE points. Check <https://www.fraud-magazine.com/cpe-quiz-archive.aspx> to see details. For additional fraud-related and ethics CPE, visit [ACFE.com/selfstudycpe](https://www.acfe.com/selfstudycpe).

All going well with our platform, our first virtual meeting will be held on 13 July 2020. We have also arranged for a presentation from Mr Robert Cockerell, Partner of KordaMentha forensic division. Robert has over 30 years of experience in fraud and corruption, detecting deception through interviews and investigation. This will be an extremely beneficial presentation, as Robert is an engaging and knowledgeable speaker.

After Mr Cockerell presentation our Chapter will be holding our Annual General Meeting, and Committee elections and we call for position nominations. As we move forward, our Chapter is planning some exciting and diverse means of delivering services and information to you, our members. We are also looking to collaboration with other Australian Chapters via our virtual meeting, so stay tuned for more on this.

Remember to save the date for our next meeting, with Robert Cockerell presenting, followed by our AGM – 6pm Monday 13 July 2020.

Julie Witham

Brisbane Chapter #71