

**Committee Meeting Chamber of Commerce committee Monday 19 May 2014 at Mackellar motel**

**Meeting commenced - 5.32pm** President thanked Mackellar Motel for their hospitality at the previous network meeting and Committee Meeting

**Present:** Ann Luke, Wendy Marsh, Peter Jones, John Campbell, Jenny Farquhar, Debbie Watson, Jim Farquhar, Michelle Collins,

**Apologies:** Steven de Roos, John Sandell

*Motion: that the apologies be accepted: Moved - Peter Jones Seconded- John Campbell CARRIED*

**Minutes previous meeting held 14 April 2014**

*Motion: that the minutes as circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record: Wendy Marsh/Jenny Farquhar CARRIED*

Business arising: NIL

**Correspondence**

Incoming: accounts as referred to Treasurer

Card to be sent to Wayne Cadman recognising service to the Chamber

**Treasurer's report**

Current bank Balance 1 May - \$18,264.21

Accounts to Pay - Jack and Jill's Cafe \$120, Australia Post \$61.90 and Essential Solutions Consulting \$412.50

It was noted that Mackellar Motel membership has been paid twice and hence paid to June 2016.

*Motion: that the report be accepted and the accounts paid Michelle Collins/Peter Jones CARRIED*

**General Business**

**1.Member survey:** general consensus that the survey was good value for money, a good process, a worthwhile exercise.

Survey – Visitor Information Centre

Response to Council on VIC due 31 May. Point of the survey was to see the impact on the business community.

*Motion: That the Chamber of Commerce make a submission to Council relating to the Visitor Information Centre that they maintain the current position of the VIC and improve signage Wendy Marsh/Peter Jones CARRIED*

Note - There was a general consensus that the Chamber provide promotional incentives to visitors and new residents.

Survey – mining

*Motion - That the Chamber of Commerce make representations, where appropriate, of the surveyed businesses majority opinion that coal mining overall will have a positive impact on their businesses and the majority are in favour of increased coal mining considering the wider social and environmental impacts (Ann Luke/Peter Jones) CARRIED*

There was consensus that Ann be appointed to make representations where appropriate.

## **2. Report from regional meeting – Wendy Marsh.**

- Informal meeting.
- How we communicate with members - paid staff, using funding for payment of staff, chamber staying relevant, succession planning, good relationship with Council, support network with other chambers, business awards, diversity in board members, having structure eg constitution (constitution to be provided at each meeting), verbal contact with members not just emails, use other Chambers staff members, having a purpose or end result for goals in place, how do people search for Chamber websites, focus on what members want and give value, give continuity, some events don't work this first time not always good time to have meetings later in week or month, give reminders about meetings, find other events so Chamber does not clash.
- How do we recruit new members - sponsored by businesses eg Tamworth, only allow 20 to sponsor then just pay normal membership fee, sponsorship could pay for a staff member, sponsorship does not have to be local eg Telstra
- member benefits - member levels, what can be given for a high level compare to a lower level, have a Directors pack explaining roles.
- Upcoming - live stream by Tamworth Chamber of John Buchanan - managed Shane Warne on 11 June.
- Overall great opportunity for Chamber to attend.

Motion - That the Chamber reimburses members for out of pocket expenses when they represent the Chamber upon receipt of invoices. (John Campbell/Jenny Farquhar)

Wendy tabled Unfinished Business from NSW Business Chamber and they have advised that we can use their logo for our document.

Invitation to Consultation Forum - competition policy review panel. Wendy attended the Forum on 19 May. Information available on the net. Comments can be made on their website to Forum questions. Highlight in next Newsletter and provide link to website on Chamber web.

## **3. Truancy Program**

Ann volunteered to attend to promote noting Chamber supports the program. Chamber agreed in principle to support program and will talk to businesses for feedback to schools. It was noted that businesses should provide signage that they will not serve school kids during school hours.

## **4. Membership and planning and events and staffing**

- Ann noted that Chamber end of year approaching - forward new membership forms - general mail out – possibly host a gala event to celebrate and promote and then have the AGM after the event.
- Workload soon to the point of needing paid assistance for the chamber – most easy is to have someone contract to do some work – to follow through at next meeting general
- Visit from Derek Tink, Regional Manager NSW Chamber and he has applied for funding for a Digital Business enterprise - getting businesses to be aware of what they can do digitally. Possibly hold a launch of this program as a high profiled event
- Need for a breakfast event (maybe wait until spring)
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*Motion: that Karen Carter Chemist be accepted as member of the Chamber (Campbell/Collins) CARRIED*

**Meeting Closed 7.17pm, next meeting Monday 16 June at Mackellar Motel**