

MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
GUNNEDAH & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY INC.

Tuesday 7th September 2021

Online Via Zoom

Meeting Open: 5:33pm

Chair: Juliana McArthur – President welcomed all present and declared the meeting open.

Present: Susan Frater-Sims, Keira Gifford, Ann Luke, Paul O Donnell, Initra Larson, Juliana McArthur, Gail Paddison, Jamie Chaffey, Mark Rodgers, Susannah Pearse, Andrew Garret, Wanda Dunnet, Dylan Smith, Benita Anderson, Sam Leys, Josh Cameron, Wellington Sardinha, Michael Broekman, Bill Ashford, Lyn Gurney, Andrew Jones

Apologies: Tracey Finlay, Michael Broekman, Michael Cooke, Peter Jones, Keli McDonald, Richard Gallen, Kate Gunn, Rebecca Boesch

1. Introduction and Acknowledgement of Country – Juliana McArthur
Initra Larson Introduction – new member
Welcome to Jamie Chaffey, Ann Luke

1) Introductory Remarks from Mayor Jamie Chaffey

Chamber commerce + Council relationship, very important – local government can do better with partnership with award winning Chamber, that is proactive around the region.

Meeting once a month to touch base on what's coming and to tackle issues.

Covid 19 affects to business, including health order restrictions, frustrating after draught, fires, mice plague. Feels for all business offering a service to our community.

Stimulus through Commonwealth and Government, much harder this time around from application to determination of support – encourages Chamber to use our respected voice within our region and as a network of Chambers, use the strength of the membership and share the frustrations with Local, State and Federal along with media.

Potential expenses and struggles to re-open when Covid and restrictions ease.

Council wants to hear the voices and will back them wherever they can.

Fantastic document in draft form – Economic Development Strategy – out on consultation – 41 actions of endorsed that clearly tell the Council (elections on 4th December) things that can make a world of difference for community, population growth for years to come. On exhibition until 27th September.

2) Introduction of Susannah Pearse – new in Economic Development

Based in Moree – assisting council – familiar with Gunnedah

Spoke to Gunnedah's resilience through draught and impressiveness of investment from both Chamber and Council in development. Worked on Moree Plan Shire Council economic development strategy and is happy to be working on areas of improvement with local businesses. Susannah is happy for Secretary to pass on her details to anyone wanting to get in contact.

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2. Present and Apologies

List of member's apologies were read by the Secretary as listed
Susan to move and seconded by Gail to declare no objections against recording minutes

3. Call for Proxies

None

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting – AGM held on 18 August 2020 were distributed to those present prior to the meeting starting. Andrew Garratt moved, Paul O Donnell seconded those minutes be approved. Carried

5. Treasurers Report

- Benita Anderson reported on a main income of profit and loss of June 2021 coming from membership at \$30,000, event at \$17,000, and grant income at \$2,000 with a total income of \$50,770 and small loss of just over \$5,000.
- High spend was noted on marketing and advertising + consultancy – Christmas Fair, car purchase and so on.
- Balance ended 30 June 2021 – Assets in bank \$40,000 + some equipment totals at \$41,865
- Juliana McArthur noted funding in kind received from Council, not specified in profit and loss as went straight to advertising not through our books, approved by Benita Anderson.
- Benita Anderson moved the treasures report and was seconded Bill Ashford. Carried.

6. Presidents Report: Juliana McArthur

- Looking at the future and the year ahead – hopeful that vaccination target will be hit and have employees back to work, harvest underway and a bright future.
- Resilient economy in Gunnedah and local businesses
- Chamber network – Beer & bubbles a great opportunity
- 2020 Christmas Fair – 4.4mil average into the community – hoping to exceed in future years
- March Youth Expo, hearing what young people wanted to do and their ideas – a lot to do with the skilled space to have training in Gunnedah rather than sending young people elsewhere to be trained. Hoping to re-strengthen ties with TAFE to see what more can be achieved in this area
- Tour of Leatherworks, such a successful and well-run business in Gunnedah – efficiency and lead in sustainability very impressive – shared within the Gunnedah times following tour. Another tour to be scheduled once expansion is underway.
- Stripes are also expanding in good news
- Australia Day Awards – Tracie was recognised for her efforts along with Chamber for the Christmas Fair success
- Keira Gifford – introduction to 1-day per week role to help spread the message of how we stand for business, that we stand for all of our members and we're only as strong as our member base. Keira will help with membership drives, creative thoughts around messaging and promoting Chamber more
- Quickly touched on media appearances from Chamber throughout the years
- In closing – thanked all for her role as President over the past year, has been an honour and a privilege. Extended thanks to Susan for the hard work as secretary as she exits out.
- Juliana moved report, Bill Ashford seconded. Carried.

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7. Election of Office Bearers and Committee:

Chair for the election: Ann Luke

Ann Luke began by noting the honour of chairing and declared that all positions are now vacant.

I. Committee Nominations (5-8 positions)

Michael Broekman nominated by Susan Frater-Sims and seconded by Juliana McArthur – accepted
Andrew Garrett nominated by Benita Anderson and seconded by Gail Paddison - accepted
Tracie Finlay nominated by Juliana McArthur – verbally accepted and seconded by Gail Paddison
Gail Paddison nominated by Bill Ashford and seconded by Juliana McArthur - accepted
Bill Ashford nominated by Susan Frater-Sims and seconded by Juliana McArthur – accepted
Initra Larsen nominated by Juliana McArthur, accepted and seconded by Gail Paddison
Josh Cameron nominated by Susan Frater-Sims – accepted and seconded by Bill Ashford

Lyn Gurney nominated by Juliana McArthur - no answer on Zoom, casual appointment
Wellington Sardinha nominated by Juliana McArthur – respectfully declined
Wanda Dunnet nominated by Gail Paddison, respectfully declined
Susan Frater-Sims nominated by Bill Ashford - declined
Sam Leys nominated by Susan Frater-Sims – declined

II. Nomination and election of Executive Committee from the committee members.

President: Juliana McArthur nominated by Susan Frater-Sims and seconded by Andrew Garratt. No further nominations – Juliana McArthur re-elected.

Vice President: Paul O Donnell nominated by Juliana McArthur and seconded by Bill Ashford. Accepted and no further nominations. Paul O Donnell re-elected.

Secretary: Ann Luke noted that with Keira on board, it will ease the secretary role moving forward. As no nominations, constitution does say the casual can be filled by the committee when they meet – lobby for committee to get a secretary moved and position declared temporarily vacant.

Treasurer: Juliana McArthur nominated Benita Anderson, accepted, and seconded by Bill Ashford. No further nominations – Benita Anderson re-elected.

Ann Luke congratulated and stepped down from chair for remainder of the meeting.

8. Motion - Bank Signatories:

Motion: That all members of the Executive Committee be authorised to transact the Chamber of Commerce Regional Australia Bank account with any one member of the executive required to authorise payments via credit card or any two via cheque or online and all transactions to be ratified in Committee meeting minutes

Juliana McArthur moved motion, Benita Anderson seconded. Carried.

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9. Endorsement of Chamber Members of Council/Community Committees/Working and Advisory Groups

i. Gunnedah Shire Council Working Groups:

Crime Prevention

Motion: That the Chamber continue to be represented on the Crime Prevention Working Group – carried.

Election of Chamber representative Gail Paddison nominated by self and declared, seconded by Bill Ashford

Access

Motion: That the Chamber continue to be represented on the Access Working Group – carried.

Election of Chamber representative Peter Jones happy to continue, moved and confirmed

Economic Development

Motion: That the Chamber continue to be represented on the Economic Development Working Group with 2 representatives – carried.

Election of Chamber representatives (x2)

Juliana McArthur self-nominated for re-election, no objections and accepted

Josh Cameron nominated by Susan Frater-Sims (no answer, passed to next nomination)

Initra Larsen nominated by Juliana McArthur and accepted

Skills Committee

Motion: That the Chamber continue to be represented on the Skills Committee – carried.

Election of Chamber representative (x2)

Susan Frater-Sims self-nominated if position available – Andrew Jones happy to put a report to council seeking the position.

Ann Luke later confirmed 2 positions available

Paul O Donnell self-nominated and is assigned

Gunnedah Community Scholarship Fund

Motion: That the Chamber continue to be represented on the Gunnedah Community Scholarship Working Group – carried.

Election of Chamber representative Joe Kelly has indicated is willing to continue in her role – all in favour and assigned

Sister Cities and Friendly Relationships

Motion: That the Chamber be represented on the Sister Cities and Friendly Relationships Working Group - carried

Election of Chamber representatives (x2)

Mr Huddle happy to continue on, accepted and assigned.

Susan Frater-Sims nominated by Juliana – accepted – later declined as appointed elsewhere – to be left open until next monthly meeting

Paul O Donnell nominated by Juliana McArthur - Declined

NSW Business Chamber Regional Advisory Council

Motion: That the Chamber be represented on the NSW business Chamber Regional Advisory Council – carried.

Election of Chamber representative

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Bill Ashford self-nominated and accepted

Juliana McArthur was happy to self-nominate for re-election so will keep in close contact with Bill Ashford on these moving's

Business Partner Advisory Group

Motion: that Chamber continue to be represented on the Business Partner Advisory Group – carried.

Election of Chamber representative

Benita Anderson to continue, and appointed

Josh Cameron by nominated from Susan Frater-Sims – accepted and appointed

Hay & Harvest Committee

Motion: that Chamber continue to be represented on the Hay & Harvest Committee – carried.

Election of Chamber representative

No word from Renee if she would like to renew so positions are open to nomination.

Gail Paddison nominated, declined

Lyn Gurney nominated, no answer so moved onto further nominates

Keira Gifford nominated by Susan Frater-Sims and accepted

(Ann Luke noted that Hay & Harvest is looking to run a virtual early October due to Covid – next committee meeting takes place next week)

ii. Chamber Subcommittees

That the following sub committees (+ membership) be formed for 2021/22

It was moved by Juliana McArthur that retail, skills and other sub committees remain in place but further to be thought out as we look further into the future. Carried.

Retail Precinct

Skills Roundtable

Other

COMMITTEE OK TO SHARE CONTACT DETAILS ON WEBSITE AND VIA EMAIL

10. Meeting close

President expressed she is sorry to see Susan and Stacey leaving the committee but wishing them both luck for opportunities moving forward.

Noted that she would love to hear ideas and open to conversations with all so please reach out to ask and is looking forward to working with all new members and committee members and having sips at beers and bubbles.

14th September – next Chamber Committee meeting called.

Meeting closed at 6:43pm