



Annual Report 2021

Table of Contents

- PRESIDENT'S REPORT
- OVERVIEW
- CHAMBER TEAM
- ADVOCACY
- FINANCIAL STATEMENT
- EVENTS
- CELEBRATING LOCAL BUSINESS
- FORGING RELATIONSHIPS

President's Report

President's Report 2021

Dear Members and Guests

Welcome to the Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce Annual Report for 2021.

Yet again our community and local businesses have experienced a tumultuous and challenging year. After the early lockdowns in March/April 2020 due to COVID, it appeared that things were getting back to normal and a recovery which began in the second half of the year was seen to be well under way by Christmas.

However, in March we experienced the floods which wrought havoc right across our region and caused damage in the tens of millions. Businesses who were still recovering from COVID were hit by the devastating floods that experts assessed as ranging from 1:100 to 1:200 year events. Once again, the community rallied to support the many flood victims. Thankfully there was no loss of life but a huge clean-up was required in the ensuing months where the Army, SES and local volunteers came together to help with this massive task. As many of you know Council still has millions of dollars in ongoing repair work on many rural roads and bridges which will continue for some time.

Chamber Events

From July to December 2020 Chamber held the following events:

- Oct 2020 - Boardroom Lunch with Craig James, CommSec
- Nov 2020 - Chamber AGM & Networking Evening - Mayor Pinson local council update and NBN Co - fibre update.

NB. At this event it was also my privilege to present Life Memberships to stalwarts Janette Hyde and Kellon Beard.

From January to June 2021 Chamber held the following events:

- Jan 2021 - All about People - **Susan Judd/David Ross**
- Feb 2021 - Welcome to the Jungle! **Billabong Zoo with Mark Stone**
- March 2021 - **Luminosity** Launch Breakfast
- March 2021 - **CSU Tour**; Theatre & Innovation Hub
- Apr 2021 - Breakfast with Attorney General, **Mark Speakman**
- Apr 2021 - **Business Awards Launch** Evening at Sovereign Place Town Centre.
- May 2021 - Boardroom Lunch with **Lucy Bloom**
- May 2021 - **Barefoot Bowls**; Networking Event, Port City Bowling Club.
- June 2021 - Boardroom Lunch with **Leanne Pilkington**, Laing + Simmons.

Chamber Campaigns

Chamber recognised early on that the impact of COVID restrictions had separated us from our members because of the lack of face to face events. Chamber ran its "Get Reconnected" campaign throughout the

latter months of 2020 where we encouraged all members to get back in touch & “reconnect” both with Chamber and other members.

Buy Local Campaign

Chamber also ran its “Buy Local” campaign in the run up to Christmas 2020 to help reinvigorate local retailers and businesses affected by COVID.

Both these campaigns were funded through state government grants – for this and her ongoing support we thank Leslie Williams, Member for Port Macquarie.

Member & Sponsor Thanks

On behalf of the Chamber Board I once again thank all our members for their continued support throughout the past year. Chamber exists to support businesses and we can only be effective in that endeavour with your continued membership.

We again thank our many generous sponsors who have remained committed to Chamber despite the lack of certainty around events. Many events have been postponed or cancelled due to COVID and we thank all sponsors for their generosity and loyalty during this past year.

I wish to offer special thanks to our EO Mark Wilson and Katherine Harris for their ongoing work and tireless efforts keeping the virtual office running throughout the year. They have continued to provide great service to our members via the Chamber website, newsletters and updated Government notices throughout the COVID pandemic, post-flood event period and generally under difficult circumstances, varied routines and at times with reduced hours.

To all members and sponsors, on behalf of the Chamber Board I thank you again for your support and we look forward to a return of boardroom lunches and networking events in the coming year.



Michael Mowle

12 October 2021

Overview

This Annual Report summarises the Chamber's activities and achievements during the past year.

Thank you to all our members, sponsors and supporters. Your positive engagement is key to our ability to support a vibrant and positive business community and environment.

Advocacy remains at the forefront of our activities; relationships with governments and key stakeholders remain strong.

Memberships and the annual business awards continue to provide the two main income sources. Our regular networking events (breakfasts and networking evenings) generally break even, while our special events such as Boardroom Lunches and the Golf Day are returning reasonable profits.

The Chamber Alliance continues to add value to our membership, with more opportunities for Members to involve themselves through networking and contact opportunities.

Support for local causes is at the forefront of our activities.

Membership

The Chamber had 268 members as of 1 July 2020 and moved to 261 at the end of June 2021.

Chamber Team

Chamber Board members working for you during 2020/2021 year:

- Michael Mowle – (President) – Managing Director, Hopkins Consultants
- Linda Elbourne – (Vice President) – Business Development & Marketing Manager, Willing & Able
- Alex Glen-Holmes – (Treasurer) - Licensed Sales Agent & Auctioneer
- Chris Denny – (Secretary) – Managing Director, Southern Cross Resorts
- Kellon Beard – Regional Manager Mid North Coast, Business NSW
- Stuart Goodfellow – Director, Regional Business Specialists
- Janette Hyde - Board Member, Panthers Port Macquarie
- Greg Freeman – Managing Director, Impact Environment Consulting Pty Ltd
- Tony Thorne – Director, King and Campbell
- Angela Frimberger – Veterinary Oncologist and Owner, Façade Escape Rooms
- Kieren Dell – CEO, Majestic Cinema
- Nick De Groot – CEO, Port Macquarie X-Ray (resigned 2021)
- Brett Varcoe – Centre Manager, Settlement City (resigned 2021)



Michael Mowle



Linda Elbourne



Alex Glen-Holmes



Chris Denny



Kellon Beard



Stuart Goodfellow



Janette Hyde



Greg Freeman



Tony Thorne



Angela Frimberger



Kieren Dell



Nick De Groot
(resigned 2021)



Brett Varcoe
(resigned 2021)

Administration staff

The Chamber administration team:

- Mark Wilson – Executive Officer
- Katherine Harris – Office and Administration Manager
- Chris Dubar – Accounts Manager



Mark Wilson



Katherine Harris

Advocacy

Central to Chamber's activity as the premier local business advocate, we pursue issues and opportunities which support a healthy economy and improve the quality of life in our community.

In this regard, Chamber has consulted with and represented member views on a broad range of issues, including those detailed below. In particular, we have maintained links and representation on two of Port Macquarie Hastings Council's (PMHC) major portfolios, being the Economic Development Steering Group and the Town Centre Masterplan Committee. We also hold Board Representation on the Cultural Steering Group.

The Chamber continues to lobby local, state and federal representatives in respect to the proposed Orbital road and additional Airport access suggesting that once an acceptable route is found; the roads will be appropriate projects to receive state and/or commonwealth financial assistance due to our significance as a regional infrastructure project. We also continue to lobby heavily regarding the current condition of the existing Airport access road.

Chamber is pleased to have a continued partnership with SafeWork NSW in our united goal to raise awareness of safety in the workplace.

Submissions and support letters

- Support for Bigger Backyard Expo
 - Support for HV Mountain Bikes March 2021 & July 2021
 - Letter to Council re Gordon Street Master Plan
 - Letter to Council re Gordon Street developments
 - Support for EIRE constructions re Gordon Street developments
 - Support for Comboyne Gardenista event
 - Support for NSW Touch Northern Conferences for 2022 and 2023
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Financial Statement

Treasurer's Report

2020/2021 Treasurers Report

On behalf of the Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to be able to present to you the financial report for 2020/2021. This has been another challenging year for all. During the 2020/2021 financial year, the Chamber experienced a severe decline in activities as a result of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. We have been able to hold minimal network events and also had to cancel the Business Awards Event that should have been held in July 2020. We are very grateful to the Government for the Job Keeper payments and grants totalling \$31,900 that have enabled Chamber to continue to operate. We have finished the financial year showing a profit of \$17,391.

Due to COVID staff have operated on reduced hours and through good management have managed to keep expenses to a minimum. As Treasurer I believe that we are trading in a positive cash flow position and that the Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce can pay its bills in the near future.

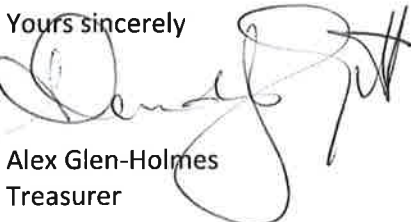
I wish to thank the current Board for their support, hard work and diligence in yet another challenging year. A big thank you to Mark Wilson and Katherine Harris who have been our strength in navigating these difficult times and have the flexibility to change events sometimes at extremely short notice and even converting these events to a zoom. This ensured that our members were kept updated and alerted to the rapid changes we have all had to work with. They also provided information on Government grants available and most importantly kept us all connected. Katherine and Mark were at the frontline of the organisation ensuring that our Sponsors and Members are looked after and also a friendly ear when it was needed. Their flexibility in being able to achieve this whilst with working from home is greatly appreciated by us all. I would also like to thank Kellon Beard and Business NSW for sending through information as soon as it was received so that we could forward this through to members. We are grateful for the ongoing collaboration with Business NSW.

I would also like to thank Chris Dubar who has continued to be a wealth of knowledge and invaluable in working with and guiding me with the accounts of the Chamber. Chris is a fantastic asset to not only the Chamber but also myself with her no-nonsense practical advice. I have asked Chris to help me to develop a number of different reports for the Board over the past few years to ensure full transparency and to easily keep the Board informed of the financial situation of the Chamber.

This will be the last Treasurer's Report I present to you as I am stepping down as Treasurer, but will remain on the Board. Thank you all for your support.

The current Board has ensured that the Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce is in a positive financial position to continue into the future with the resources needed to support our members.

Yours sincerely



Alex Glen-Holmes
Treasurer

Income Statement:	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Revenue	152,707	225,738
Other revenue	32,164	40,572
Expenses inc Employee expense	167,480	(231,946)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	0	0
Finance costs	0	0
Profit (loss) from operations	17,391	34,364
Balance Sheet:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	150,473	72,267
Trade and other receivables	12,960	51,028
Other current assets	9,392	6,083
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	172,825	129,378
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	0	0
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	0	0
TOTAL ASSETS	172,825	129,378
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	73,900	46,864
Financial liabilities	5,764	14,345
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	79,664	61,209
TOTAL LIABILITIES	79,664	61,209
NET ASSETS	93,161	68,169
EQUITY		
Retained profits	93,161	68,169
TOTAL EQUITY	93,161	68,169

Events

A key element of our engagement with members is our regular events. Each gathering has focused on providing information for members on matters of strategic interest to local business (see topics listed below).



Port Chamber

The structure of meetings was altered during the year, with feedback from Members indicating that most preferred a decrease in presentation time in favour of more discussion and networking opportunities at events.

The Chamber event themes over the period are outlined below.

Port Chamber events

- Oct 2020 - Boardroom Lunch with Craig James, CommSec
- Nov 2020 - Chamber AGM & Networking Evening - Mayor Pinson update and NBN Co - fibre update
- Jan 2021 - BBQ Breakfast - All about People - Susan Judd & David Ross
- Feb 2021 - Networking Evening - Welcome to the Jungle! Mark Stone and local support at Billabong Zoo
- March 2021 - Luminosity Launch Breakfast
- March 2021 - Networking Evening at Charles Sturt University - Tour of theatre & Innovation Hub
- Apr 2021 - Breakfast with Attorney General, Mark Speakman
- Apr 2021 - Business Awards Launch Evening at Sovereign Place Town Centre
- May 2021 - Boardroom Lunch with Lucy Bloom
- May 2021 - Networking Evening at Port City Bowling Club - Barefoot Bowls
- June 2021 - Boardroom Lunch with Leanne Pilkington - Laing+Simmons

Celebrating local business

Each year, Chamber encourages the celebration of local business by hosting the Coastline Credit Union Greater Port Macquarie Business Awards. The Business Awards income makes up a large percentage of Chamber's overall annual revenue. Sadly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no Awards were held in 2020.

Forging relationships

Chamber is very pleased to continue its representation of member views to community leaders including the PMHC General Manager and local members of parliament. This advocacy occurs not only via formal written representations on issues of concern, but also through regular face-to-face meetings allowing constructive dialogue on shared challenges and solutions.

Council and Mayor

Chamber's executive representatives attend a regular quarterly meeting with the Mayor and General Manager. These meetings ensure a collaborate approach on matters of business interest and provide a voice for the business community within our local government area at this executive level.

Business Hub

Bi-monthly meetings of the 'Business Hub' (comprising representatives of all our local business networks and Council's Economic Development team) provide a forum to raise issues of collective business concern, share information about member activities and to facilitate joint promotion or other forms of mutual assistance.

Supporting the community

The Chamber often refers to our local business as the "backbone of the community". Local business has a long-standing reputation for involvement in community causes and making a positive contribution.