

# Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce

## Annual General Meeting

### Minutes

**Tuesday, 24 November 2020**

**Port City Bowling Club, Port Macquarie**

The President, Michael Mowle, declared the meeting open and welcomed guests at 6.20pm.

#### **1. Apologies**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Greg Freeman    | Impact Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd |
| Nick De Groot   | Port Macquarie X-Ray                    |
| Chris Denny     | Southern Cross Resorts                  |
| Neville Parsons | Donovan Oates Hannaford                 |
| Maria McKay     | Hertz Australia                         |
| John Cassegrain | Cassegrain Wines                        |

Motion to accept the apologies. Moved Stuart Goodfellow, seconded Paul Watson. Motion was carried unanimously.

#### **2. Previous Minutes**

There were no amendments proposed to, or business arising from, the minutes of the previous AGM.

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2019 AGM as a true and correct record of the previous meeting held on 22 October 2019. Moved Alex Glen-Holmes, seconded Kellon Beard. Motion was carried unanimously.

#### **3. President's Report**

Michael Mowle talked to the President's Report which was tabled. Salient points as follows.

- This past year has been one of the most tumultuous and challenging periods for our community and businesses. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2019 was dominated by the drought and devastating bushfires from November until early in the New Year.

- The 2019 Holiday Coast Credit Union Greater Port Macquarie Business Awards Gala Dinner with Jean Kitson and Mark Strachan as co-host was highly successful.
- Boardroom Lunch with Alexandra Heath, Reserve Bank of Australia (co-hosted with HBWN) was another well attended event.
- In early 2020 there were drought breaking rains in January and February. This was followed in mid-March by the Coronavirus pandemic, initial restrictions and lockdowns. From this time onwards the community and business operators grappled with COVID restrictions in one form or another for several months. A gradual re-opening began in April/May and the local economy has recovered strongly since then.
- Chamber participated in Council lead COVID Recovery Planning sessions from April to June 2020. This culminated in a support package of recovery projects endorsed by PMHC worth over \$3m.
- Due to COVID restrictions from March 2020 onwards Chamber had to cancel all face to face Networking events. However, during that period Chamber was able to continue providing a service to members via zoom presentations.
- The lack of events has had a severe impact on Chambers revenue during the first half of 2020. However, despite the COVID restrictions and reduced events, Chamber membership remained fairly steady (ranging between 254 to 262 members) during 2019/20. Michael thanked all members on behalf of the Board for their ongoing support during what has been a very difficult period for everyone.
- He also thanked the Chamber sponsors for remaining committed to Chamber despite the lack of events and acknowledged their generosity and loyalty during this past year. We are all looking forward to a return to Networking events allowing full sponsor participation in the coming year.
- He also thanked the EO, Mark Wilson, as well as Chamber staff Katherine Harris and Trisha McIntyre for their work and tireless efforts during the year. They have continued to provide great service to our members via the Chamber website, newsletters and updated Government notices throughout the pandemic under difficult circumstances and reduced hours.

Motion to accept the President's Report. Moved Janette Hyde, seconded Jacob Deline. Motion was carried unanimously.

#### 4. Treasurers Report

Alex Glen Holmes presented the Treasurer's Report which was tabled. Salient points as follows:

- This has been a difficult year for all of us in business and we have all had to make many changes and adjustments to keep business going. As a Chamber we also had to make many adjustments to ensure that we could stay afloat and support our members during this time. With many cutbacks we were able to show a positive result showing an

overall profit of \$30,630. This raised figure is due to Business restart grant of \$30,000, plus Job Keeper and cash flow grants totalling \$9,660 which have assisted the Chamber to continue to operate.

- Due to COVID no networking events were able to be held in the second half of the financial year from our March event. As a Board we also made the decision to extend memberships three months during this period to ensure we weren't subjecting our members to any further financial difficulties than those they were already facing.
- The Business Awards held in July 2019 was again a very well supported event which produced an overall profit of \$39,885. This was due again to a very hard-working committee that volunteered many hours and worked in with the Chamber staff to ensure another successful night for the Business Community. A big thank you staff and committee for a job very well done.
- Due to COVID we reduced staff numbers and hours worked. This helped to control some of the costs we incur. As Treasurer I believe we are trading in a positive cash flow position and the Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce can pay its bills in the near future.
- She thanked the current Board for their support, hard work and diligence to get us through this financial year and a special thank you to Chris Dubar who had greatly assisted her to cut the budget down to the bare bones and helped source grants to ensure that the Chamber could continue financially and meet its obligations. A big thank you also to Katherine Harris and Mark Wilson from our Chamber office for working through these challenging times with us.
- The current Board has ensured that Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce is in a positive financial position to continue into the future with the resources needed to support the members

Jon Oxley noted that the Treasurer's Report was well done and professionally presented this year and that the Chamber had done a great job in keeping costs down. Alex thanked him for this feedback and also thanked him for helping correct the discrepancies with last year's reporting.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Moved Jon Oxley, seconded Kellon Beard. Motion was carried unanimously.

## **5. Election of Board Members**

Michael Mowle declared eight positions on the Chamber Board vacant. It was noted that there were eight nominations for the vacant positions. In accordance with Chamber's Constitution no ballot was required.

Michael congratulated the newly appointed members.

Newly appointed Board members:

1. Michael Mowle
2. Janette Hyde
3. Alex Glen Holmes
4. Linda Elbourne
5. Tony Thorne
6. Kellon Beard
7. Kieren Dell (one year term as filling a casual vacancy)
8. Angela Frimberger (one year term as filling a casual vacancy)

Sitting Board members:

1. Stuart Goodfellow
2. Chris Denny
3. Brett Varcoe
4. Greg Freeman

**Presentation to Janette Hyde & Kellon Beard of Lifetime membership badges.** Michael Mowle thanked Janette and Kellon for their great insight and outstanding service over the years (Janette since 2010 and Kellon since 2004). He thanked them on behalf of the Chamber and the local business community which they continue to serve.

With no general business arising the meeting was declared closed at 7.40pm.

Signed as a true record:

Signature:



Print Name:

Michael Mowle

President



Chris Denny

Secretary

Date:

26/10/2021