

Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11th June 2013

At Court House Hotel at 7.00p.m.

MINUTES

Present: : Gerard and Sue Walker (Stewarts Menswear), Alice Cadwell (Spaghetti Circus), Suvira McDonald (sculptor), Malcolm Price (Social Habitat), Stephen Hall (Brunswick Valley Historical Society), Obi McDonald–Saint and Ash Stennet (Mullum Mac), Sandy Watson (Empire Café), Judy McDonald (Mullumbimby Keep it Local), Jenelle and Dean Stanford (Mullumbimby Newsagency), Sue Mallam (Sue M's Boutique)

Apologies: David Piesse (Mullumbimby Keep it Local), Margaret and Arthur Hatch (Mooyabil Farm Holidays), Kelvin Kite (Source de Luxe), Eitan Timor (TelcoGreen), Susan Tsicalis (Brunswick Valley Historical Society), Nadine Abensur (Art Piece Gallery), Kane Spooner (Spaghetti Circus), David Piesse (Mullumbimby Keep it Local), Christopher Dean (Tallowood Ridge Estate).

1 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- .1 The Committee confirmed the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th May 2013 as true and correct (m) Sue Mallam (s) Suvira McDonald

2 Correspondence

Media releases have been published regarding Mullum Wi-Fi and Magical Mullumbimby.

Some businesses are handing our maps provided by Byron Shire Council (Don't spoil us, we'll spoil you campaign). Feedback needs to be given to Council about graphics, usability, and size – there is room for improvement in 2nd edition. Locals already producing maps in this area, Council could use local.

Geoff Bensley forwarded information regarding the Rail Trail campaign. Letter of support from Chamber asking what are the plans for the railway land in Mullum.

Letter required regarding providing a crossing at the medical centre in Mullumbimby, particularly for older patients. Suggest that the request not be worded as a request for a crossing but rather outline the problem rather than a solution. Traffic Committees are loath to put in more crossings and maybe a traffic calming solution i.e. an island could be an option.

3 Treasurers Report

No Report

4 Business Arising

4.6 Obi has had a meeting with Alan Morden. Quote on development of the Magical Mullumbimby website is \$9200.00 – this price includes a discount for sponsorship of Chamber. The site would have similar

functionality as Lismore Chamber – business owners can update their own details. Advertising on site to be sold to cover costs. This project requires someone to drive it, also need Financial Plan, wait for David as he had plans for sale of advertising. Obi will get two other quotes but needs ideas of who to approach.

4.7 Circus Festival Report Alice Cadwell. Spaghetti Circus recently appeared on the Today show – 10,000 viewers Australia wide. Today show approached them. Magic Bus is not available for Festival weekend however cost was prohibitive anyway. Now looking to hire 3 x 12 seater buses at a cost of \$1500. Circus members to drive the buses. Still looking to have a discount voucher system. Sheet handed around for Echo Advertising – need names and numbers for 3 double page spreads.

Alice requested Sponsorship from the Chamber to assist with the bus hire costs – bring to next meeting along with other sponsorship requests.

Possibility of individual businesses sponsoring a bus (\$500) or ½ bus (\$250)? Suggested to Alice she may also approach the Clubs who have courtesy buses, they may provide these for the Festival transport. Bus travel would be free for patrons however suggested that a donation box be placed on the buses.

4.8 Community Garden has requested sponsorship from the Chamber to sponsor the parade prizes. Discussion re sponsorships in general. Need to set an amount we can afford to contribute each year – Community groups to apply for sponsorship by a particular date each year? Criteria for sponsorship would be that the event promotes Mullumbimby. Discuss at next meeting along with other sponsorship requests.

4.9 Festival Report. Seven floats already, coming along nicely. Chamber to have a banner made up to carry in the parade. Suggestion to contact Roundabout Theatre – they would be good to have participate in parade. Spaghetti Circus recently had a float in the Bangalow Billy Cart parade – Balderstones provided trucks free of charge.

4.9 Public Art Report – Suvira McDonald. Project has come before the Public Art Assessment panel and has been given the thumbs up – this means the concept has been approved. Need to come back to Council with Engineering plans, evidence of Community Support. We also need a schedule of what we want Council to do (waiving DA fees, cleaning site etc.). An Engineer, Phil Wallace, has come on board on a pro bono basis – he has redesigned the way it is built and put together – requires a redesign of hardware and the way it's attached to the ground. Essential Energy is not backing the project. Suggestion that Noel, Mullumbimby Engineering, could be very helpful. So far as Community Support is concerned, the project is exhibited in the foyer of Council – there is a book at the desk to log comments.

Fundraising for the project – as per minutes attached. Also suggested a voluntary levy for businesses, perhaps \$10 per week or whatever they can afford.

As per minutes attached, discussed this group forming its own Incorporated Association and open a Bank Account for project fundraising purposes. Will be registered as Creative Mullumbimby and will become a member of the Chamber of Commerce – will also have the support of the Chamber of Commerce. Also requested a donation from the Chamber to start off the banking account/fundraising – discuss at next meeting.

More artists are required to drive other suggested projects (Laneway etc.). Would like to start a database of Mullumbimby artists – pool of talent to draw on. Is that something we can do with the resources of the Chamber?

Also looking at writing a narrative story of Mullumbimby to be published in a national magazine or airline magazine. From Biggest Little Town in Australia to Magical Mullumbimby and everything in between. Talking with a journalist about this.

News board on Newsagent wall. Chris Mallam (landlord) as OK with this but requires a Plan of Management regarding what is to be advertised on the board. Concerned about graffiti.

Come up with design and Management plan and bring back.

Walking trail. Extension of sculpture walk. Revitalise existing path through sculpture walk, to museum and Community Garden and Stuart Street – first step. Eventually could link up to Showgrounds, Tallowood and beyond. Heritage Park a good place for a coffee van to set up on weekends, Council could provide activity circuit.

Telstra site is for sale. Woolworths keen to put petrol station on site – bad option for town and businesses. Group looking at alternatives. Site is gateway to Mullum, could tie in with rail trail.

4.10 Photo Competition.

Byron Council competition has absorbed all others. Could we get material from this if we sponsor it?

CASE Community arts are planning a postcard show for 3rd week September. This is something they have done before but not for a few years. Suvira suggested to them that they reschedule to coincide with Community Festival on 1st week September.

General Business

5.1 Pop-up shops in empty shops. How does this work? In other areas, the Chamber helps to negotiate with landlords to fill up empty shops. Would need something concrete before approaching landlords. Services or art projects would be more appropriate than retail shops. Keep shops interesting, not more chain stores like Byron Bay.

5.2 Mullum Wi-Fi. Obi met with Mayor – Council is behind the project. Would like it to be through Council so that Council has ownership – need to be endorsed by Council so they can obtain grants to provide infrastructure on their roof. Linknet are also interested in the development – proposed cooperative model around communications in Mullumbimby.

Ownership structure: Mullum Mac initiative, endorsed by Council, Linknet on board in support in limited function using their infrastructure to extend the initial zone from centre of CBD to showground and Community Garden. Possibility to connect to Tallowood NBN. Project needs \$500 from 20 businesses – 4 signed on, need 16 to pledge.

Discussed provision of public seating by individual shops (for comfort of patrons using the Wi-Fi). Would cost individual businesses \$2000.00 per year. This needs to be looked at and provided/funded by Council – master plan of town centre required. Comes under Section 94 funds – nothing in bucket unless there is more development.

5.5 Janelle has investigated Public Liability Insurance for the Chamber, insurance for members, events etc. Approximately \$1200.00 per year through NSW Business Chamber.

5.6 Local delivery drivers have been told by Police they will be booked if they double park. Need Council to provide loading zones in main street area.

Meeting closed at 9.15p.m.

Next meeting 9th July 2013. Venue to be decided.