

General Monthly Meeting

Thursday 27th April 2023 | Griffith Leagues Club | 5.30pm

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Amanda Quarisa, John Nikolic, Alycia McLean, Daniel Meadows, Darryn Savage, Sophie Sun, Daniel E Roller, Carmel La Rocca, Doug Curran, Daniel Tidey, Betsy Farrugia, Sophie Sun.

APOLOGIES: Anne Napoli, Michael Rowely, Ross Davidson, Heiko Meins

1: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Moved: John Nikolic

Seconded: Darryn Savage

2: BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

3: FINANCIALS

Roy Spagnolo & Associates are contracted to prepare BAS and EOFY Tax Returns. Chamber uses XERO and provides a P&L & Balance Sheet for reporting purposes. Hard copies were distributed to those in attendance. Anyone wishing to seek clarification of any expenses/reports are encouraged to ask.

Moved: Darryn Savage

Seconded: Alycia McClean

4: PRESIDENTS REPORT

Goal is to increase and make strong connections with members and stakeholders. Open meetings are a great start to understanding the business landscape. Have been working closely with Griffith City Council and other stakeholders on key policy priorities on housing and workforce crisis.

5: AGENDA

Events update

5.1 Business Awards 2023

Amanda provided an overview of the Awards program and where things are up to.

Sponsorship selling well only 3 Awards Category Sponsorships available as of 27.4.23.

Nominations will open 29th May and close 30th June.

Need help sourcing Judges from outside of Griffith to be available first 2 weeks of July. Need approx. 10 judges to share the workload.

Request assistance from committee to assist with sponsorship and to help encourage businesses and individuals to enter the awards. Sponsors to help encourage employees to enter.

5.2 Employment Expo 2023

Venue has been confirmed – Yoogali Club. Layout confirmed. 50 exhibitors. Letter sent to Yoogali Club asking for a discount on the Room hire of \$1800. TAFE NSW has supported the event by providing some interactive displays. We have partnered with Workforce Australia again to host presentations and to ensure job seekers attend.

High schools from around the region have been emailed and encouraged to attend in either 3 time slots.

All information is on our website. Costs etc.
Amanda will be following up high schools for excursion time slot.
Advertising needs to be completed for this event.

Motion: To spend the same advertising budget as 2022 in 2023.

Moved: Amanda Quarisa

Seconded: Dean Owen

5.3 Social Business Network

How did this new group start? A group of business leaders & employers got together to address feedback which has shown that new residents to Griffith, find it challenging to make new connections & build friendships outside of their workplace. Whether they're local & been here a while, new to town, or perhaps here for a short stay- these social events are ideal for like-minded people to chat, share experiences and hopefully make life-long friendships.

The purpose is to retain workers that come to Griffith.

May 2023 Event Details

The Griffith Business Chamber and Griffith City Council have joined forces with local employers to create the Social Business Network. With the aim of providing regular social networking events for new and existing employees in Griffith. The intention is to create stronger social bonds for people who have moved to Griffith for work.

The next Social Business Network event will be held on Thursday 11th May 2023 5pm-7pm at Owen Toyota. Open to the entire community and there's no cost to attend. Light nibbles and beverages will be provided.

RSVP by registering via the link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/griffith-social-business-network-evening-tickets-616290881617>

Discussion were raised about the regularity of the event. Monthly was too much and will fizzle out quickly. Quarterly is suggested. The potential Hosts are required to be members. The purpose of the event was discussed as to whether it's skewed towards more of a community event and should the funds be better used for more member specific driven event. Was discussed that this event could be merged with a regular networking event for members. Revisit concept in 6 months.

Proposed resolutions

- a. *That the Chamber provide \$500 to host employers for Social Business Network events (including to Owen Toyota for its upcoming event on 11 May 2023)*
- b. *That the Chamber explore opportunities for funding and assistance for the Social Business Network from Regional Development Australia*

Motion: That the Chamber provide a co-contribution of 50% up to \$500 for expenses incurred to host employers for Social Business Network. Explore further funding opportunities from RDA. Revisit concept in 6 Months time.

Moved: John Nikolic

Seconded: Darryn Savage

All in favour. Motion carried.

5.4 Small Business Month

Waiting on details to be released from Small Business Month as to which month and how much the funding will be. Could be anywhere from \$2500-\$5000 and unknown if the month will be Oct or November. Hoping to partner with Griffith City Council once again, but unsure if they're keen to join for this event.

Simon Kuestenmacher has been temporarily booked for 12th October. Simon's fee is \$8,000 + GST and travel via Sydney as Simon doesn't want to do the drive from Melbourne.

<https://www.simonkuestenmacher.com/>

Amanda is away overseas and requires someone else to spearhead this event from conception to delivery.

5.5 Other upcoming seminars

Nil

POLICY PRIORITIES UPDATE

5.6 Worker and Housing Shortage Crisis

Terms of reference at end of document.

Proposed resolutions

- c. *That the Chamber endorse the Terms of Reference for the Griffith Worker and Housing Shortage Taskforce - with amendments to 1.c. v to provide examples of representatives.*
- d. *That the Chamber prepare a letter to the Department of Home Affairs jointly with Griffith City Council for the approval of the Designated Area Migration Agreement to be expedited. Encourage other LGA's to also do the same.*

Moved: John Nikolic

Seconded: Alycia McLean

Motion carried with minor amendment, to refer to examples of the kinds of other stakeholders that might be included, such as employment services providers, social housing providers, other industry groups etc.

John also agreed to investigate lobbying for the Designated Area Migration Agreement approval with Business NSW, State and Federal Member.

6. NEW MEMBERS

FYI All renewal Memberships have been invoiced and due 30th June 2023.

New Members to join Chamber in 2023 thus far are;

Leading Edge Data Centres

Bisetto Ag

Asuri

NBN – Silver Sponsor

Griffith City Council

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Opportunities to increase membership

Carried over until next meeting

7.2 Any other topic, issues or concerns that members may wish to raise

Sophie Sun from Quest Apartments raised that business people who are visiting Griffith and staying with her would to connect with local business people and find out more business information.

Due to the timing of their stay with what events Chamber are hosting, it was suggested for Quest to direct people to the Chamber Website to see if there's any events on during their stay.

Plus to make contact with Griffith City Council's Economic Development Department. There's also a wealth of information on their website too https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/edu/

Investment Prospectus: https://issuu.com/griffithcitycouncil/docs/2022_investment_prospectus_1_/1?ff

Economy Id: <https://economy.id.com.au/griffith>

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Last Thursday of each month, Griffith Leagues Club - Southside at 5.30pm.

With the exception is for May 2023 with venue unavailable and needs to be moved.

When: Thursday 25th May, 2023

Time: 5.30-6.30pm.

Venue: THE GEM Conference centre

Meeting Closed: 6.55pm

Griffith Worker and Housing Shortage Taskforce (DRAFT)

Terms of Reference

1. Background and preliminary

- a. The Griffith Worker and Housing Shortage Taskforce (**Taskforce**) is a joint initiative of the Griffith Business Chamber (**Chamber**) and Griffith City Council (**Council**).
- b. The Chamber and Council acknowledge that the Griffith LGA is currently affected by a lack of workers and housing, which is constraining economic activity and growth.
- c. The Taskforce will be comprised of the following:
 - i. Two (2) representatives from the Chamber;
 - ii. Two (2) representatives from Council, and additionally Council staff as appropriate, including the General Manager and Director of Sustainable Development;
 - iii. One (1) representative from the Office of Helen Dalton MP for the seat of Murray;
 - iv. One (1) representative from Regional Development Australia – Riverina; and
 - v. Other representatives as determined from time-to-time by the Taskforce, including but not limited to employment services providers, social housing providers and other industry and representative groups.
- d. The Taskforce will meet monthly.

2. Key purpose and functions

- a. The key purpose of the Taskforce is develop strategies to increase the supply of workers and housing to the Griffith Local Government Area.
- b. The functions of the Taskforce include:
 - i. Identifying opportunities for social, affordable and worker housing projects in the Griffith LGA;
 - ii. Identifying opportunities to increase the supply of workers to the Griffith LGA, and increase worker retention within the Griffith LGA;
 - iii. Documenting the Griffith LGA worker and housing market;
 - iv. Preparing a report within nine (9) months, including recommendations to increase the supply of workers and social, affordable and worker housing to the Griffith LGA; and
 - v. Advocating on behalf of the region to State and Federal Governments, including policy-makers and relevant funding bodies, on matters relating to increasing the supply of workers and social, affordable and worker housing.