

# General Monthly Meeting

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 | Griffith Leagues Club | 5.30pm

## MINUTES

Meeting Opened 5.33pm

**ATTENDANCE:** Amanda Quarisa, John Nikolic, Alycia McLean, Court Sayer Roberts, Darryn Savage, Carmel La Rocca, Daniel Roller, Andrew Wolfe, Samijo Fisher, Franco Pistillo

**APOLOGIES:** Kira Boswell, Ross Davidson

### 1: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**Moved:** Alycia McLean

**Seconded:** Darryn Savage

### 2: BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

NIL

### 3: FINANCIALS

General Note: Roy Spagnolo & Associates are contracted to prepare BAS and EOFY Tax Returns.

Chamber uses XERO to manage day to day financials 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.

Notes: Used up funds from "Our Future is Local" Account and can now this account can be closed.

Sent reminder invoices to overdue members who haven't renewed their membership yet. Only 13 remain which is good for this time compared to previous years. If those members have not paid by 5<sup>th</sup> September, their membership will cease.

Had a few issues with Beyond Bank and XERO not communicating with Bank Feeds, but all is fixed now and should be working.

**Moved:** John Nikolic

**Seconded:** Alycia McLean

### 4: PRESIDENT'S REPORT by John Nikolic

Excellent year so far for the Chamber. Awards were successful, great traction regarding SRV and worker & housing taskforce with Griffith City Council.

### 5: AGENDA

#### Events update

#### **5.1: Executive Activity / Meetings**

Amanda & John met with Garry Whittaker from Training Services NSW on 10<sup>th</sup> August who gave us a broad overview of their services. Amanda followed up with Angela Rey from Workforce Australia and Carol-Anne Olivero Careers Advisor at Murrumbidgee High School Wade Site and Melina from Griffith Site. Need to bridge the gap between Schools and workforce. So many program and initiatives, it's overwhelming for businesses and Chamber would like to know how

they can fit in and help. Murrumbidgee did send some info that Chamber sent to members regarding SBAT and has had good feedback from businesses so far which is great.

Amanda, Alycia and John met with Sussan Ley on 24<sup>th</sup> August. Purpose was to introduce new President and Vice President and to discuss DAMA.

Griffith Business Chamber Executive joined Griffith City Council for an informal catch up on 23<sup>rd</sup> August regarding the SRV and Worker & Housing Taskforce.

### **5.2: Business Awards 2023**

Very successful event. 77 nominations, 15 Business Women of the Year Awards, 15 Finalists for Customer service Awards. Night was attended by 280 people. Finalists for Business NSW revealed.

Approx costings: Gross Profit \$57,953.26 Expenses \$51,371.64, Gross Profit \$6581.62

Idea raised to run aligned awards every 2 years and run an easy online version for popular choice awards every other year. Needs further discussion.

### **5.3: Employment Expo 2023**

Approx 40 exhibitors. 450 attendees including major highschoools in Griffith and surrounding towns. The event was created in reaction to the workforce crisis that our members where facing in 2022. It has evolved and organically turning into both a Career's AND Employment Expo. Training Services NSW indicated they possibly could not provide funding for school buses next year. Sent emails to non members to join. Idea for venue for next year is Regional Sports Centre.

Revenue \$7970. Expenses \$5114. Approx Gross Profit \$2855

### **5.4: Small Business Month**

Grant submitted in conjunction with Griffith City Council to host a Facebook and Instagram Bootcamp on 24<sup>th</sup> October. We were successful with the \$3500 grant and now will implement. Time was running out and we could not secure Kim Houghton by the grant deadline. Working on another event possibly in November with Kim.

#### **Description of Event**

As part of Small Business Month Griffith City Council together with Griffith Business Chamber Present Instagram and Facebook Bootcamp hosted by Social Media Expert Jen Donovan.

When: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Time: 6pm

Where: The Gem Hotel Conference Room

Cost: FREE to attend

RSVP: by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Registration Essential

This workshop is designed for small business owners who are new to social media, or those who are not so new, but are still lost when it comes to their marketing on social media.

#### **What you'll Learn.**

How to set up your profile correctly, to using in-bound tools such as Reels, Highlights, and Stories, to a deep dive on how and why to use hashtags on both platforms and whether or not to schedule your posts.

The bootcamp will also cover when is the best time to post, what to post and what platforms to create content for. Plus go through the fundamentals of what you need to have in order to make social media work for you(bring in leads and sales).

Jen will go through what's working and what's not on each platform (trends for 2023) and go through super useful tools that can help make marketing easier on Facebook and Instagram.

This bootcamp will provide a great understanding of how to use marketing platforms to bring in leads, build a community and ultimately create sales. This is a very interactive workshop, with no questions too silly or too hard to ask. For those struggling with social media, this workshop is a MUST to attend!

### **5.5: Special Rate Variation & Housing and Worker Shortage Taskforce**

Griffith Business Chamber Executive joined Griffith City Council for an informal catch up on 23<sup>rd</sup> August to SRV. Chamber's collective view is support of a single, lower SRV. Council were receptive to the idea and looking at other cost modelling. Will continue to talk further with them.

Chamber's reasoning for a single, lower SRV;

- a) In terms of business confidence, a single increase is better than a prolonged period of rate rises, which will be more expensive for business overall and could hamper recovery;
- b) Council's Business Paper in fact included a single 23% increase (including the 3.7% pegged increase) as an option;
- c) Even if the proposed 3-year increase of 10.5% per year is introduced, this will not necessarily benefit rate payers in the near-term as by the second-year, the increase will be 21% anyway;
- d) Our proposal is for a lower increase, if cost-reduction and revenue raising measures are implemented.

Worker and Housing Taskforce

Keen to forge ahead. John to send through terms of reference. Amanda raised that Workforce Australia are keen to be involved.

### **5.6: DAMA Update**

John explained that Rachel Whiting met with the Minister for Immigration. No further ahead. Still sitting in the queue with Department at Home Affairs.

Chamber met with Member for Farrar Susan Ley and will seek permission from RDA to speak on their behalf to Federal Government.

John to write a letter to Minister for Immigration Andrew Giles and ask Business NSW, Helen Dalton for support and local councils, Chambers in the geographical area. Alycia will be attending a Chamber Day and will ask for their support too.

Chamber to also consider contacting other ministers (e.g. for infrastructure) for support.

Representative from Helen Dalton's office Franco, offered to support the push to expedite the approval of the DAMA.

### **5.7: Chamber Day organised by Business NSW**

Alycia will be attending on 19<sup>th</sup> September in Albury.

### **5.8: Water**

Chamber are opposed to any buy backs. Need to formulate a formal policy on water. Representative from Helen Dalton's office Franco, offered to work with and communicate with Chamber on this issue. John to have a discussion with Paul Pierotti.

### **5.9: Social Business Network**

Working with RDA on their Business Concierge Service to explore funding opportunities. Next event is still to be organised.

### **5.10: Small Business membership fee reduction**

**Motion:** Any non members attending our Small Business Month event (26<sup>th</sup> October) will be offered a 50% discount if they join chamber on that night.

**Moved:** Darryn Savage

**Seconded:** John Nikolic

Motion carried.

### **5.11: Defibrillators**

Peta Dummett from Griffith Community Centre made an enquiry if Council or the Chamber can assist in creating a location map and assist in the cost of purchasing a Defibrillators for the CBD. The logistics of who would own it, be responsible for maintaining it and the ongoing public promotion of its location is not something that is easily managed.

Chamber feel this is more a community issue and should be referred to Griffith City Council – who were originally cc'd into the initial email request.

### **6. NEW MEMBERS**

I2R Group

Riverina Mobile Vet & Equine Dentistry

The Gurdwara Singh Sabha Society

Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia - Griffith

Worm Tech

Elements of Health & Wellness

Fluid Engineering

### **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

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

7.1: Chamber is supporting the Area News with their 100 Years Celebration and purchased an advert for \$400.

7.1: During the meeting, Amanda raised an issue about the increased workload and responsibilities/expectations as the go-to person for Chamber-related matters, which have started to impact her personal business and is becoming unsustainable. She proposed that the Executive team consider adjusting her monthly payment to reflect the expanded scope of her role, and will prepare a proposal for further consideration. The role comprises both paid and volunteer with no increase for 5 years +

7.2: Business Survey

Will be active between Oct-Dec 2023.

Council to do questions and will run this by Chamber for final approval.

Prizes include 10 x \$50 vouchers. Council asking for 50%. i.e. \$250

Amanda to prepare email and social media posts to promote.

**Motion:** To approve a \$250 spend to be used towards the Business Survey to purchase vouchers.

**Moved:** Amanda Quarisa

**Seconded:** Darryn Savage

7.3: Bulk Site Tours: Samijo from The Personnel Group presented an idea to implement employment agencies to work collaboratively together to fill bulk positions that businesses have available. Chamber encouraged Samijo to talk further with John and Alycia.

7.4: Service NSW

Andrew Wolfe gave a brief overview of what Service NSW for Business does and how they support Businesses.

Meeting closed 7pm

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 5.30pm Griffith Leagues Club