

# Notice of General Monthly Meeting

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 | Griffith Leagues Club | 5.30pm

## MINUTES

Meeting Opened: 5.42pm

**ATTENDANCE:** Alycia McLean, Daniel Roller, Michael Rowley, Ross Davidson, Mark McLean, Steven Bourke, Brain Roberts, Betsy Farrugia, Anthony Morton

**APOLOGIES:** John Nikolic (president), Amanda Quarisa (Secretary), Darryn Savage,

### 1: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**Moved:** Michael Rowley

**Seconded:** Daniel Roller

### 2: BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

### 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 only. Anyone wishing to seek clarification of any expenses/reports are encouraged to ask.

Financials not provided as Amanda is overseas and not in attendance.

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

John not in attendance due to been at the launch of Griffith Connection.

### 5: AGENDA

#### **5.1 Executive Committee Activity/ Meeting**

No further meetings since the last monthly meeting.

#### **5.2 Special Rate Variation**

A vote by Council on Special Rate Variation is due to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Chamber understands that council is modelling alternatives to a three-year increase, but is unclear whether and amended increase will be voted on.

#### **5.3 Griffith Worker and Housing Shortage Taskforce Update**

Council has proposed an inaugural meeting of the Taskforce in October. Chamber has proposed a meeting in the week commencing 23 October 2023, after 4 pm. As per the proposed terms of reference, two representatives of Chamber are to attend the Taskforce.

**Resolution:** That John Nikolic and Darryn Savage attend the Taskforce meetings.

Moved: Michael Rowley

Seconded: Ross Davidson

## **5.4 DAMA Update**

An application to expand the Orana Designated Area Migration Agreement (**DAMA**) to include the Riverina, including Griffith was lodged in December 2022 and was expected to be approved in February 2023, but has still not been approved.

On 13 September 2023, Chamber wrote to Minister Giles (copy **enclosed**) encouraging the Minister to approve the DAMA. Chamber is also liaising with Hon Sussan Ley MP and Hon Helen Dalton MP, as well as Council, Business NSW and members to send Minister Giles similar letters.

## **Events update**

### **5.5 Small Business Month**

Grant submitted in conjunction with Griffith City Council to host a Facebook and Instagram Bootcamp on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Hosted by Social Media Expert Jen Donovan.

#### **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.

We currently have 17 people RSVP to date.

### **5.6 Social Business Network / Griffith Connection**

Chamber has partnered with RDA – Riverina to rebrand the Social Business Network as ‘Griffith Connection’. As with the Social Business Network, the aim of Griffith Connection is for local employers and organisations to hold regular events for new and existing workers, to help them create stronger social bonds and assist with worker retention.

A Griffith Connection event is currently being held simultaneously with this meeting, at the Griffith Regional Art Gallery. The event is being held in conjunction with the launch of the Griffith Welcome Experience, which is a NSW government-funded program administered by RDA – Riverina, aimed at assisting essential workers in education, health, police, communities & justice and fire and rescue relocate to Griffith.

Moving forward, it is understood that RDA – Riverina will provide administrative and some financial support to Griffith Connection events. A timetable of events for the next 12 months will be developed with Marg Couch from RDA – Riverina over the coming weeks.

## **6. New Members**

None to report due to Amanda been away.

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Reduced Rex Flights**

From 30 October 2023 until at least 31 March 2023, REX will be heavily reducing flights between Sydney to Griffith (and other regional areas, including Narrandera, Orange, Parkes, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Armidale). This could mean that same day flights to Sydney and return may not be available.

It has been reported that the flights are being cut due to poaching of pilots by QANTAS: [Regional councils disappointed but not surprised by flight cuts as pilot poaching clips Rex's wings | Region Riverina](#)

Members are invited to explain the potential impacts this may have on their businesses.

Only issues that were brought to Chamber attention were;

Putting pressure on what will be the 3 flights into Griffith and out to be able to cope with demand for travel to Sydney and return.

The cost of the flights that will be available could cause some issues for those that need to use flying as an option to attend meetings and or appointments. This could add to the already increased cost of living and an added extra cost to business owners that require this service.

### **7.2 Meeting regarding Murray-Darling Basin Plan, with Hon Sussan Ley MP**

A meeting is being held by the Member for Farrer, Sussan Ley at the Griffith Regional Theatre on **Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 12 pm**, to discuss the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, including the proposal for voluntary water buybacks from December 2027.

To RSVP, call 02 6964 1212 or email [farrer@aph.gov.au](mailto:farrer@aph.gov.au) by 2 pm 3 October 2023.

Meeting closed: 6.04pm