

BUSINESS UPDATE

June 2020



2019 Muswellbrook Business Awards

As you know, with the restrictions on events, plus the strict social distancing requirements surrounding the Coronavirus we were forced to cancel this year's Business Awards Dinner .

Fortunately, we were able to finalise the award nominations/applications and conduct our judging prior to the restrictions coming into place.

This meant that the Business Awards for 2019 could still be conducted but without holding the Awards Dinner. Finalist were still presented with their Certificates and Award Winners still received their respective Trophies.

[Video of Business Awards Winners](#)

Updates added to MCCI Website

We have made some updates to our website to reflect our current initiatives , events and programs.

These include adding under the Programs menu, the Making Muswellbrook and Locals Supporting Locals programs. The latest news on both these can also be found under the News menu.

We have also updated the Events page to include the Great Cattle Dog Muster and other new initiatives that are in the pipeline.

Another new feature is the addition of a On-line Membership form making it easier for new members to register.

[Check out the latest Website updates](#)



Please note: Due to the Social Distancing restrictions surrounding Covid-19 our June Breakfast has been cancelled.

Future Breakfasts will be reviewed in light of any new regulations and progress in containing the virus. At this stage, it is not possible to predict when we might be able to resume regular Monthly Breakfasts.

This Newsletter is proudly sponsored by:



MCCI Presidents Message



Dear Members and Colleagues,

When I see the world news, I think how lucky we are to be in Australia and how especially lucky we are to be in the Upper Hunter Valley. Despite the national and global economic impacts of Covid-19, our local economy has sustained good levels of employment and economic activity.



Over the last three (3) most of our local businesses have been supported by the coal, equine, power generation and other essential services in our area. The businesses in the industrial sector have generally maintained normal levels of turnover and employment. Similarly, those in the equine industry like trainers, jockeys, farriers and their related suppliers have continued to operate with the allowing of racing through the lockdown. Unfortunately, there have been no attendances at race meetings which has heavily impacted race clubs including our own Muswellbrook Race Club.

We should not, however, be complacent about our good fortune, because it is not universal. Our local tourism, hospitality, retail, fitness, health & beauty businesses have been either shut down or operating at very reduced levels. It has been heartening to see that those businesses are being supported by those less affected. The big companies like BHP & AGL have formalised attractive payment terms, while others have been supportive on a case by case basis, to boost small business cash flow.

The Chamber is particularly thankful for the support of BHP with substantial financial assistance through the Local Buying Foundation, C-Res, Vital Resources Fund and the B.I.G Program. This funding has allowed your Chamber to be active with a range of Business Support Programs to assist local businesses to adjust to the new normal. I hope you will study the programs we are offering in this Newsletter and keep in touch with Wayne Toms for any assistance you may need.

The Chamber has a full program of support for local businesses in the coming financial year and it is important that we maintain our membership income when we are not able to hold Breakfast meetings and other large gathering events. The Board has decided to hold membership fees at the same level and Membership Renewal Notices will be sent out this month. I would ask you all to make that payment by 30th June. You might also consider recommending membership to another local business and have them visit the upgraded Chamber web site to join. There is strength in numbers and we hope to increase membership in the year ahead.

With the lifting of restrictions this month to allow gatherings of 50 people and then, hopefully 100 people, we will see a return to reasonable trading levels across all sectors soon. The last three months and the next three will be recorded as unique in our lifetime. The experience should resonate with all businesses that change is constant and no one could foresee the global effects of the pandemic. We have learned that 'we are all in this together' and that the interdependence of all business sectors has become profoundly evident. We should all learn from this experience, remember the lessons learned and continue to support each other through tough times and good times alike.

Yours sincerely,
Mike Kelly
President



OUR MISSION

'To represent, promote and encourage business enterprise in Muswellbrook and its districts'.

YOUR MCCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**MEMBER
SERVICES
MANAGER**
WAYNE TOMS
0438 517 311

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry has a proud reputation as one of the strongest and proactive Chambers in the region. This is in part thanks to the strong support of its members. With much happening in region, such as the Muswellbrook Bypass, the Chamber will need your ongoing support to ensure that it can continue to represent you on such issues and also continue to provide a range of programs and services to support you and your business.

**Muswellbrook
Chamber of Commerce and Industry
membership renewals are now due!**



The Chamber is pleased to welcome the support of the following new member.

Beauty Co Muswellbrook

We are a Small boutique Salon located in the Hunter Valley, Muswellbrook NSW. We sell a range of Inika Organic Cosmetics & Skincare, Pure Fiji Body products, PONi Cosmetics & Brow Products, LUK Lipsticks & Sothy's Paris Skincare.



To stay up to date on what's happening in the MCCI, our Making Muswellbrook program and the Great Cattle Dog Muster event, be sure to like the following Facebook pages.

Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.

<https://www.facebook.com/Muswellbrook-Chamber-of-Commerce-Industry-Inc-200745070000331/>

Making Muswellbrook

<https://www.facebook.com/Making-Muswellbrook-103948217806018/>

The Great Cattle Dog Muster

<https://www.facebook.com/greatcattledogmuster/>

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MEDIA RELEASE – 14th May 2020

The Great Cattle Dog Muster

As a result of the restrictions surrounding COVID-19 and their flow-on affects, the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry, on advice from the event's Organising Committee, has decided to cancel this years Great Cattle Dog Muster which was due to be held 11th -13th September.

The event will be moved to the 10th-12th September next year.

Even though there has been some easing of restrictions, there is still a cloud hanging over the allowing of large crowd gatherings at events. For an event the scale of the Great Cattle Dog Muster, four months out from the event is the minimum lead-time to make a decision on whether to continue or move to next year.

Two other important factors required careful consideration and ultimately dictated the decision to move to next year:--

Firstly, since the COVID-19 restrictions came into place, all cattle dog competition events have been cancelled around the country. This means when restrictions are lifted there will be a significant backlog of events to be rescheduled. This could mean that many competition participants may not be available to attend the event which could have a significant impact on numbers attending and the event overall.

Secondly, although there has been some easing of local restrictions here in Australia, it is doubtful that there will be easing of international travel restrictions by September. This would have a considerable impact on our 'International' feel to the event. Many overseas visitors were confirmed as having booked their flights and accommodation. They included visitors from Canada, USA, Europe and South Africa. In addition to these, there is also an international judge from Canada and a special VIP from the USA. International visitors would not be able to attend the event in the current climate of restrictions.

The Chamber wishes to thank our sponsors for their understanding and ongoing support for this event through these difficult times.

It is regrettable that we have had to make this decision, but we look forward to the Great Cattle Dog Muster in September 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Kelly

MCCI President

Making MUSWELLBROOK



**Promoting the
Positives**

**Highlighting
Progress**



**Creating a
sense of
Community
Pride**



**Recognising
individuals, groups,
organisations and
business that help to
make Muswellbrook
a great place to
call home.**

muswellbrookchamberofcommerce.com.au

Program Update

As a result of COVID-19 and the social distancing restrictions, we have not been able to interact with as many people as we would have liked which has led to it having some impact on the roll-out of the program.

With our monthly Chamber Breakfasts and annual Business Awards Presentation Dinner cancelled, this has also limited exposure of the program.

We restrictions now being slightly eased, we have this month been able to begin to recognise those that play their part in making Muswellbrook a great place to live.

There is also a new Muswellbrook website being launched as part of the program.

We would like to give a special thanks to the sponsors and supporters of the program for their patience during these challenging times. Each can be found listed on page 8. Their support of the program is very much appreciated.

To follow the program be sure to go to our:

[Making Muswellbrook Face Page](#)

[MCCI Website—Making Muswellbrook](#)

[MCCI Website—Making Muswellbrook News](#)

If you would like to nominate someone for recognition, please email:

info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au

OUR MISSION

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Making MUSWELLBROOK

Recognitions



Business Recognition **Domino's Pizza**

Congratulations to Domino's Pizza Muswellbrook for supporting essential workers with complimentary meals during the COVID-19 crisis.



Group Recognition **Muscle Creek Landcare Group**

Congratulations to the Muscle Creek Landcare Group for the revegetation and beautification of Muscle Creek for all the community to enjoy.

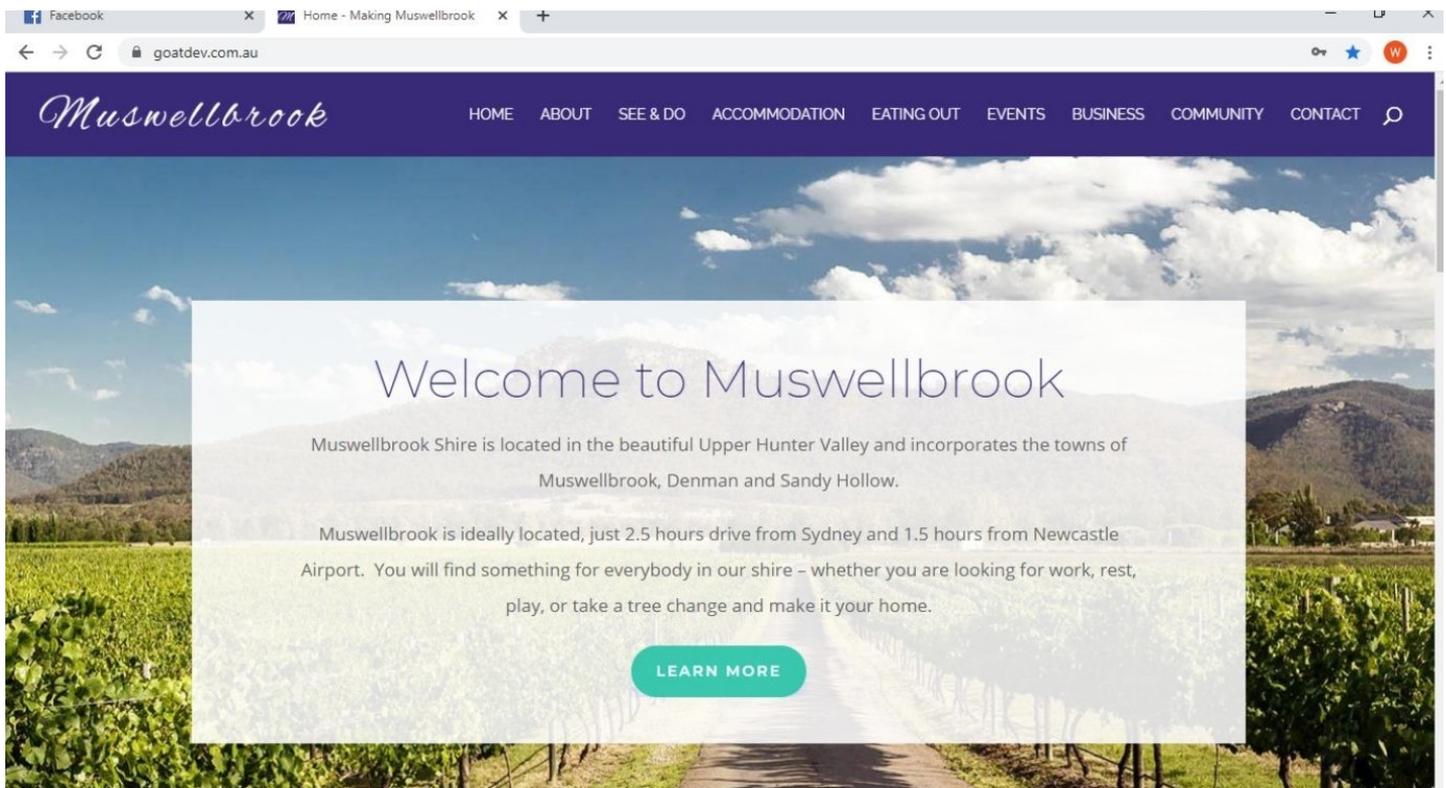


Individual Recognition **De-anne Douglas**

Congratulation to De-anne Douglas. For her commitment and tireless efforts in supporting those less fortunate in the Muswellbrook community.

Making MUSWELLBROOK

Muswellbrook Website Now Available



www.muswellbrook.org.au

To complement the Making Muswellbrook program, the MCCI has revamped an existing website that had been lying dormant for some time. The [muswellbrook.org.au](http://www.muswellbrook.org.au) website is designed to act as a directory with links to other websites containing all the relevant information.

The website covers topics such as Accommodation, Eating Out, Events and what to See & Do. Also included are links to Business and Community information. More features and content is planned to be added in the coming months.

The site is a great tool for visitors and for those looking to move to Muswellbrook.

Special thanks to our Making Muswellbrook sponsors and supporters that helped to make this website happen.

Making MUSWELLBROOK



Promoting the Positives
Highlighting Progress

Creating a sense of Community Pride



Recognising individuals, groups, organisations and business that help to make Muswellbrook a great place to call home.

muswellbrookchamberofcommerce.com.au

The Making Muswellbrook program is made possible with the assistance of the following:

Program Sponsors



MUSWELLBROOK & DISTRICT



Program Supporters



Scone Country Tours



OUR MISSION

'To represent, promote and encourage business enterprise in Muswellbrook and its districts'.

Now is the time for MCCI members to support their fellow members and the broader business community more than ever before.

To help counter the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on our members, the MCCI has introduced a Locals Supporting Locals program. To date, we have been sharing news from members on their changed business models and helped them promote their adjusted trading times. More recently we have released videos of a number of members as part of the program to help them promote their message. In the coming weeks more videos will be produced from other cross sections of our membership.

Be sure to support the following MCCI members adapting to counter the impacts of COVID-19 on their business.



Two Rivers
[Locals Supporting Locals Video](#)

Hunter Belle Cheese
[Locals Supporting Locals Video](#)



Hollydene Estate
[Locals Supporting Locals Video](#)

The Chamber continues to increase its efforts to assist affected local businesses with information and advice to counter the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are focused on delivering practical and local programs to assist businesses manage the current restrictions and into the recovery and rebuilding phase.

We are grateful for the support of BHP's Vital Resources Fund with a \$50,000 contribution to the Chamber which has assisted the MCCI to maintain a high level of support to our members.



Locals Supporting Locals

To help counter the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on our members, the MCCI has introduced a Locals Supporting Locals program. Part of the current program included videos of a number of members to help them promote their message on how they were adapting to the COVID-19 restrictions. The MCCI plans to continue this program post the pandemic and beyond.

With the generous support of the Local Buying Foundation the MCCI will now be able to upgrade its Video equipment and Editing Software to continue producing quality videos.



Mental Health Training for Managers

There has been a wonderful response to this training that the MCCI is providing with many businesses already registering their expression of interest. Delivered via interactive online workshops using Zoom, the sessions are delivered by a highly experienced clinical psychologist from the Black Dog Institute.

The training helps participants how to help mental health at work, designs workspaces that promote wellbeing, and develop the skills to have effective conversations around mental health and support employees.

Our thanks to the Black Dog Institute and Sincerus for their support in making this free training available to MCCI Members.



Inter Business Support Forums

The MCCI has been conducting a pilot program on this initiative over the last six weeks which has proven to be extremely valuable to participants. The sessions provide a supportive approach to addressing common challenges Muswellbrook businesses are facing.

We are now offering the program to all MCCI members free of charge. The program will consist of cohorts of 6-8 business-owners or managers from similar industries. Each cohort will meet every 2-3 weeks for 90 mins, either by Zoom or face to face. The sessions are facilitated by Sincerus Mindset Coaching and Training.

We would like to thank Sincerus for their support and the Local Buying Foundation for sponsoring the program.



Mental Health Training for Managers

Even before the onset of Covid-19, nearly one in six Australian workers were experiencing mental ill-health.

When we add the impacts of self-isolation, job loss, income reduction and stress associated with keeping a business afloat, you are now even more likely to be confronted with someone who has been impacted by mental ill-health in your workplace.

Managers play the most visible role in preventing poor mental health at work, supporting employees when they face challenges, and helping their team to be at their very best each day. Increase productivity for your business and wellbeing for your team, having fewer sick days and higher morale.

Learn how to:

Help improve mental health at work;

Design workspaces that promote wellbeing;

Develop the skills to have effective conversations around mental health, and support employees.

Delivered via interactive online workshops using Zoom

Sessions are delivered by a highly experienced clinical psychologist from the Black Dog Institute

Training duration: 3 hours.

Delivery is via 3 x sessions with 10 minute breaks between each session.



To register your expression of interest email:
info@muswelbrookchamber.com.au

Date and time to be confirmed
once registrations are tallied.

Limited Places

Enquiries & registrations

Email | info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au



MUSWELLBROOK
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
& INDUSTRY

2020

INTER-BUSINESS SUPPORT FORUMS

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Cohorts of 6-8 business-owners or managers from similar industries. Each cohort will meet every 2-3 weeks for 90 mins, either by zoom or face to face. Sessions facilitated by Sincerus Mindset Coaching & Training.



WHAT IS COVERED?

Provide a supportive approach to addressing common challenges Muswellbrook business are facing. Share expertise, knowledge & access to services to enable your business to get back on track.



FREE COACHING*

Get access to free 1:1 coaching from an NLP certified practitioner and business coach.

FREE MARKETING

This program will be marketed on social media. Your cohort & your business profiled for free.

FREE RESOURCES

Access shared strategies, forms & policies & reduce the time spent getting back on track.

FREE CONNECTIONS

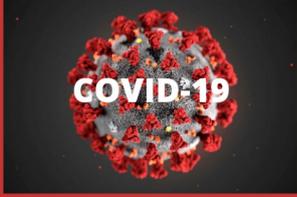
Connect with businesses in your industry, larger corporations & guest speakers. Lean on leaders facing similar challenges.



Proudly sponsored & supported by



AN INITIATIVE OF THE LOCAL BUYING PROGRAM



Business Support Hub

Important COVID-19 information links and resources.

Business Support Hub Page added to MCCI Website

In response to the Coronavirus crisis we have now added a 'COVID-19 Business Support Hub' page to the MCCI website. The page contains important information and links to official COVID-19 resources.

[View Business Support Hub Page](#)

The following links provide official and current updates . We suggest you save these to your favourites to allow you to quickly keep yourself abreast of developments on regular basis.



Business
business.gov.au

[Coronavirus Information
and Support for Business.](#)



Health

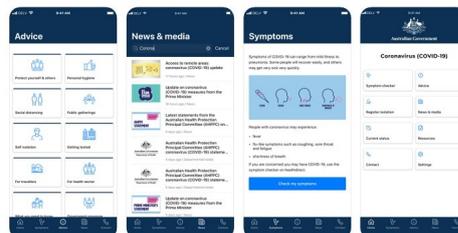
[Coronavirus Information for the
Community and Business.](#)



[Business Guide to Coronavirus](#)



Coronavirus Australia 12+
Official Government Info
Australian Department of Health
#1 in Health & Fitness
★★★★★ 4.4, 685 Ratings
Free



Australian Federal Government Coronavirus App—Available to download

Aaron Henry Optometrist	EMF Group Pty Ltd	Malabar Coal
A Corp Computers	Edmonds Joinery	Mangoola Coal Operations
AEE Services	Edward Higgins Parkinson—First National Real Estate	Mark Diggins Solicitor
AGL Energy Limited	Elks Enterprises Pty Ltd	Maxwell Spark Electrical Pty Ltd
Allweld Services	Fairfax Regional Media	Melanie's Jewellers
APM Employment Services	Final Form Regeneration	Merton Living
AQC Dartbrook and Management	Fyfe Pty Ltd	Monadelphous Engineering Pty Ltd
Austmine Limited	GJ's by the Lake	Monteath Powys
Baybrook Motor Inn	Godolphin Australia	Muswellbrook Coal Co
Bengalla Mining Company	Gowing Advisory Accountants	Muswellbrook Workers' Club
BHP Billiton Mount Arthur Coal	Greentree Financial	Muswellbrook Floral Studio
Big Lift Cranes & Heavy Haulage	Hair by Maddi	Muswellbrook Golf Club
Blackrock Industries	Hallett Home Solutions*	Muswellbrook Home Hardware
Bowditch Earthmoving	Harvey Norman Muswellbrook	Muswellbrook Motors
Briken Group Services	Harvey Recruitment	Muswellbrook PCYC
Brook Medical Centre	Hermitage Motel	Muswellbrook Post Shop
Brook Outdoors	Hitachi Construction Machinery	Muswellbrook Race Club Ltd
Capelli Style Hair Salon	Hollydene Estate Wines + Vines Restaurant	Muswellbrook RSL Sub-Branch Club
C-Res	Hunter Belle Cheese	Muswellbrook Security Services
Catalyst Plus	Hunter Plant Mechanics	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Central Arcade Pty Ltd	Hunter Prestige Catering	Muswellbrook South Public School
Challenge Community Services	Hunter Region Business Hub	Muswellbrook Steel Supplies
Chandler Macleod Group	Hunter Valley Elite Window Tinting	National Australia Bank
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Hunter Valley Mediation Services	National Plant & Equipment
Compass Housing	Hunter Valley Printing	New Lucky Star Bistro
Comprint Solutions Pty Ltd	Ice Box Liquor	Newcastle Permanent Building Society
Coolmore Australia	Industrial Drone Services*	Northwest Mining Company
CPR Pest Management Services	Integratedliving Australia Ltd	OAS Technology Group
CRJ Maintenance	itravel Muswellbrook	Pet Medical
Curtis Gant Betts	Joplin Lawyers	PicBox Photobooth
Daracon Group	JTS Realty	Pirtek Muswellbrook
Davies Thompson & Wright Services	Jennifer Lecky & Associates	Platinum Dance Centre
Dayarne Smith Copywriter	Joblink Plus Muswellbrook	Prince of Wales Tavern
Denman Legal Pty Ltd	Joblink Plus Muswellbrook	Pukara Estate
DK Heavy Plant services	MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd	Pumps & Pipeline Services
Double Picc	MRS Services	
Doug & Roslyn Cleal	MV Solar Pty Ltd	

RAP Surveying	TAFE NSW	Upper Hunter Community Services
Radio Hunter Valley	T E Painting	Upper Conservatorium of Music
Railway Hotel	Teterin Supply	Upper Hunter Fire Protection
Raine & Horne Muswellbrook	The Business Centre	Upper Hunter Show Inc
Reg Osborn Pty Ltd	The Happy Tooth Muswellbrook	Valley Fasteners Muswellbrook
Regional Australia Bank	The Chop Shop Butchery	Warburton Estate Agents
RHM Consulting Engineers	The Red Door Community Kitchen	Warrior Disability Services
RMS Services	The Remington	Wear Parts Services
Roger Skinner Photography	Think Goat	Westpac
Ruthz Management Solutions	Top Dressed	Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service
Scone Country Tours*	Thiess Pty Ltd	Whiteman Welding
SGS Australia	Tradecore Industries Pty Ltd	Whittaker Contracting
Small Forest Wines	TransCare Hunter Ltd	Wideland Motor Group
SNP Security	Tutt Bryant Heavy Lift & Shift	Workpac Pty Ltd
Sparke Helmore Lawyers	Two Rivers Wines	Yore Contractors Pty Ltd
Supply Solutions Group	Unity Bank	Youth Express
Telstra Shop—Muswellbrook	United Contract Services	1800 Excavate
Telstra Shop—Muswellbrook	UON Upper Hunter	

New Members

Hunter Valley Operations	Specific Solutions*	Building Design Direct
Sincerus Group*	Aberdeen Highland Games*	Blackwoods*
Pursehouse Rural	Beauty Co Muswellbrook	

*Indicates Associate Member

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