ABN 3 7 833 687 668 PO Box 683, Muswellbrook NSW 2333 Phone 0438 517 311

Email: info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au <u>Web: www.muswellb</u>rookchamberofcommerce.com.au

BUSINESS UPDATE

November 2020



October Chamber Breakfast

The theme for the October Chamber Breakfast was based around Small Business Month and the Chamber's Locals Supporting Locals program.

Those attending heard from a number of MCCI members, including: Chris Lavis from Muswellbrook Home Timber & Hardware, Vicki Collins from Vicki Collins Travel Partners, Michael Carey from Muswellbrook Motors, Lavinia Hutchinson from LivMedia, and Michael Valentine from MV Solar.

Nick Slater from Mangoola Coal also gave a brief update on the Mangoola Coal Continued Operations Project.

The Breakfast also saw the Chamber launch its 'Go Local First' video which we have produced as part of our Locals Supporting Program.



You can view the 'Go Local First' video here: https://youtu.be/1gyD4wS 51U

We are grateful to the State Government for a \$2000 grant which has funded our 'Go Local First' video and allowed us to provide a free breakfast to those attending. Special thanks also to the Muswellbrook RSL for hosting the event and managing the social distancing requirements.



Our next Breakfast is Tuesday 3rd November at the Muswellbrook RSL

Theme: Local Real Estate Update

Please note: Buffet Breakfast will be available, but due to social distancing requirements the Breakfast will be limited to 60 attendees.

This Newsletter is proudly sponsored by:



MCCI Presidents Message



Dear Members & Colleagues,

At our October Breakfast, we launched our 'Go Local First' campaign. We are encouraging everyone to do Christmas shopping in town. As we are searching for Christmas presents for family & friends, let's all - 'browse global but shop local'. At the same time, the Chamber urges all retailers to continue to source items to suit customer's needs.

The presentations at the last Breakfast, by five (5) of our local businesses, were inspiring. There was a range of impacts felt by these businesses through the pandemic, but there was a common thread of resilience and preparedness to meet the challenges that Covid-19 gave them. I thank them all for sharing their experiences with us and wish them all the best as we work our way out of this pandemic induced global recession.



I must also thank Nick Slater, Operations Manager of Mangoola Coal, for his Continuation Project update. The Chamber has supported this project from the beginning and is preparing a submission to the Independent Panning Commission, which is expected to hold a public hearing in November.

The Chamber continues to represent local businesses on various committees and discussion groups. On Monday 19th October, I represented the Chamber at an inspection of the Maxwell Underground site. Along with representatives of Malabar Coal, IPC Commissioners and staff and the Equine Industry, we were escorted on a three (3) hour inspection of the existing infrastructure, rehabilitation areas and the locations of the pit top facilities for the proposed underground operations. This was a very informative tour, which reinforced my view that the project offers excellent opportunities for the local economy along with best practice methods of environmental management. An IPC hearing is expected in the next month and the Chamber will make a submission and present to that hearing. As always, Chamber Members views are welcome and will be included in our submission.

Despite the negative impacts of Covid-19, our local area is experiencing strong demand for skilled labour and a mini -boom in the property market. I am looking forward to our local Real Estate Agents views on the market at our November Breakfast. With a limitation of only sixty (60) attendees, we will do our best to share the information with all members after the event.

There is no doubt we live in interesting times. The world has changed and continues to change more rapidly. In business, we have to be continually assessing our place in the world and be prepared to adapt to changing circumstances. As Muhammad Ali once said –

"The man who views the world at 50 the same as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life."

I hope you are all adapting and remaining positive about the future for your business. Remember that the Chamber is always here to help.

Yours sincerely, Mike Kelly President





OUR MISSION

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



YOUR MCCI **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT MIKE KELLY 0417 408 127

TREASURER LORRAINE SKINNER 0429 329 353

SECRETARY GENELLE SCOTTS 0431 705 672

DIRECTORS

PHILLIP FARQUHARSON 0439 436 830

> **AMBER WRIGHT** 0411 088 605

ROSS PEASLEY 0400 863 950

MICHAEL CAREY 0414415185

> JENIFER LECKY 0419 268 130

MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER WAYNE TOMS 0438 517 311



'Bouncing Back—Bouncing Forward'

12th May 2021

Full Day Event - Local and National Presenters An event for Business Owners, Managers, Employees A day of inspiration!

Sponsorship Prospectus Now Available!

View and Download:

2021 Upper Hunter Inspirations Conference Sponsorship Prospectus

Contact Wayne Toms 0438 517 311 or email info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au



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/

OUR MISSION

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



Chamber launches 'Go Local First' Video

To celebrate Small Business Month in October , the MCCI produced a <u>'Go Local First'</u> video to promote local businesses as part of its Locals Supporting Locals program. This will be followed by series of videos in the lead up to Christmas promoting the importance of Go Local First when doing your Christmas shopping.





You can view the video here: Go Local First Video





With this years event having to be postponed due to Covid-19, we are excited to announce the new date for 2021. The three day event will be staged on 10th, 11th, and 12th September, with Saturday the 11th being the Public Open Day.

Would you like to be part of this spectacular event?

We currently have volunteer positions available for:

Organising Committee—Committee Member

Public Open Day—Coordinators

Public Open Day — Muster Ambassadors

Would you like to support this spectacular event?

View and Download: 2021 Sponsorship Prospectus

For more information on the Great Cattle Dog Muster visit:



Or follow us at

Great Cattle Dog Facebook Page





Contact Wayne Toms 0438 517 311 or email info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au













BLUEY TM and BLUEY character logos TM & © Ludo Studio Pty Ltd 2018



MCCI Finalist in Hunter Business Awards

We are pleased to announce that the MCCI is a finalist in this year's Hunter Business Awards in the Local Business Chamber Category.

The Awards will be contested in 17 categories, with the winners to be presented with their awards at a live, COVID Safe gala ceremony at the Newcastle Civic Theatre on Friday 20 November.



FINALIST

The gala ceremony will be a theatre-style presentation with ticketed seating and drinks and finger food service conducted in compliance with the venue's COVID Safe plan.

Important message to our Chamber Breakfast attendees?

As you know, due to Covid –19 restrictions, the number of people we can have attend our Breakfasts has to be limited to meet the 4sq meter rule.

This means at each Breakfast there are some members who unfortunately have to miss out and are placed on a waiting list in case we get any cancellations.

At our last Breakfast there were a number of 'No Shows' which was disappointing when we had those on the waiting list enquiring the day before if there were spots available.

In the current Covid-19 climate, we ask that if you have registered to attend a Breakfast that you be sure to enter it into your diaries as not to forget, or if you feel you can not make it, give us adequate notice so that we can contact those on the waiting list in sufficient time.

MCCI Activity Focus for 2020/2021

- Advocacy and Representation.
- Member Support Programs.
- Making Muswellbrook Program.
- Locals Supporting Locals Program.
- Events Program.

2020/2021 MCCI Calendar of Programs and Events

- Chamber Breakfast Monthly
- Member Support Programs Ongoing
- Making Muswellbrook Program Ongoing
- Locals Supporting Locals Program Ongoing
- Muswellbrook Business Awards April 2021
- Upper Hunter Inspirations Conference May 2021
- The Great Cattle Dog Muster September 2021

OUR MISSION

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



""The Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and industry is an exceptional resource to the business community. After having had the opportunity to work with many Chambers, Muswellbrook are a stand out in their ability to provide support and resources to the business' in town. Their various networking events, their recognition of local achievements and their ongoing ability to engage the businesses in Muswellbrook are a testament to the organisation. They are a valuable resource to the community and I encourage all businesses within the Muswellbrook community to become involved".

Chris Lavis Home Timber and Hardware

"The Chamber provides me with an opportunity to support the local business community as well as receive exposure for my growing business. The team really listen to their members and are responsive to their needs. As a result, I have always found each of the Chamber team approachable, engaging and ready to take an innovative and inclusive approach to help tackle the various challenges the Muswellbrook business and general community face".

Tabatha Kattau Sincerus Mindset Coaching & Training

"Being a part of the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce is a partnership that Bengalla values. We appreciate the hard work by the chamber in organising breakfasts and business events and the opportunities to network and build relationships that these events provide. We are blessed to have a proactive Chamber, that under the leadership of Mike Kelly, Wayne Toms and the Board assists the economic growth of our local community".

Cam Halfpenny General Manager Bengalla Mining Company

"The Chamber serves a vital role in our district, guiding and influencing policies which impact upon Chamber members generally. It also provides a valuable forum for the dissemination of information and collaboration amongst our members. I urge any and every business proprietor in our district, to participate in membership of our Chamber and its programs, to make a pooled investment in thought and action to pursue enhancement of the Upper Hunter economy and lifestyle. We are stronger as a community."

John Gowing GowingAdvisory Accounting

"When we commenced our business in the Muswellbrook community in 2016 we joined the MCCI because getting to know your community is essential to business success, especially in a regional area. We thank the MCCI for their exceptional leadership in all areas of business, their monthly breakfast meetings are always informative, on time and interesting, the annual business awards give us an opportunity to recognise and congratulate a wide range of business people from those starting out to those doing exceptional work in their area of expertise".

Richard Bailey

General Manager Operations MACH Energy, Mount Pleasant Operation.





Locals Supporting Locals



Merton Court Aged Care Facility Luncheon

Thanks to Hollydene Estate / Vines Restaurant, and Local Business Support

COVID -19 has affected everyone but some more than others. For those in aged-care facilities face to face contact with loved ones and the outside world has been restricted and at times almost non-existent.

During one of our recent Inter Business Connect Forums, participant Shani Mitchell from Merton Living, shared with the other participants the plight of their aged care residents who had been in virtual lock down since March and unable venture out of the facility for their normal outings.

Hearing this, Emma Williams from Hollydene Estate set about organising a special luncheon to bring a bit of the outside world into Merton Court and give the residents there a special treat.

The luncheon took place on Monday 26th October and saw a team from Hollydene Estate and Vines Restaurant lead by Head Chef Andrew Le Blanc, put on something out of the ordinary in bringing the Vines Restaurant to the residents.

The Luncheon also saw a number of local business also step up and support the event.

Emma would like to give a special thank you to co-sponsors Westpac Muswellbrook, Melanie's Jewellers, Muswellbrook Floral Studio, Mangoola Open Cut, Pirtek, RMS Services, and Two River Wines.

"It is awesome what can happen when organisations get together and think outside the box," Emma said.

> Well done Hollydene Estate and to those local businesses that helped to make it happen.















Individual Recognition **Kevin Doherty**

Congratulations to Kevin Doherty for his many years of dedicated service to the community and his longstanding commitment to supporting community organisations.



Business Recognition Eatons Hotel Muswellbrook

Congratulations to the Eatons Hotel Muswellbrook for improving the area's street appeal with their restoration and painting of the front facade of the hotel.



Know someone you feel is worthy of recognition?

Know of and individual, group, organisation, or business that you feel warrants being a Making Muswellbrook recognition recipient? You can nominate them for consideration by emailing their name and why you believe they deserve the recognition to: info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au







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

Program Sponsors

















Program Supporters

















Creating a sense of Community

Pride



Promoting the **Positives**

Highlighting

Progress



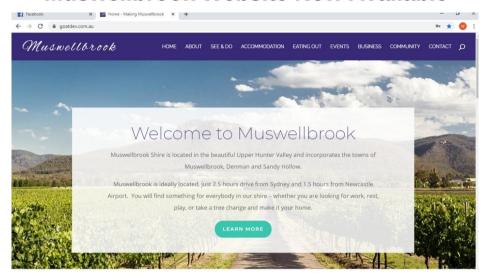
Recognising individuals, groups, organisations and business that help to make Muswellbrook a great place to call home.

OUR MISSION

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



Muswellbrook Website Now Available



www.muswellbrook.org.au

The Muswellbrook Directory Website is an initiative of the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry as part of our Making Muswellbrook Program.



Indigenous Careers Conference for the Hunter and Central Coast region.

The conference will run (online) on the morning of Wednesday November 18th. The focus for the November event is on sharing inspiring and successful stories of growing Indigenous employment, particularly but not exclusively amongst employers and organisations that can build capacity and opportunities in the region.

It's free and open to anyone.

RSVP's to: indigenous-employment@newcastle.edu.au

Member News

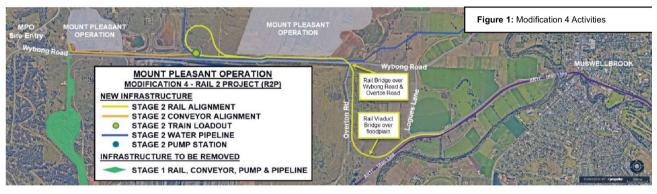




Introduction

MACH Energy Australia owns and operates the Mount Pleasant Operation (MPO) which is located approximately 3km north-west of Muswellbrook. MPO's Modification 4 was approved by the Department of Planning and Environment in November 2018 and sought to relocate rail, water and associated electricity supply infrastructure as shown in **Figure 1** below.

Activities associated with Modification 4 (the 'Rail 2 Project' or 'R2P') are expected to begin in Quarter 4 of 2020, including the construction of the approved rail infrastructure, relocation of the Hunter River water supply infrastructure and associated electricity supply, and the demolition and removal of redundant, temporary infrastructure within the extent of the Bengalla Mine once the new infrastructure has been commissioned and is fully operational.



Daracon Group awarded Rail 2 Project Contract

The Contract to construct the R2P has been awarded to local civil construction business Daracon Group. Daracon will be responsible for the safe and efficient delivery of the rail loop infrastructure construction and signalling installation, commissioning to the Australia Rail Track Corporation network and the upgrading of Wybong Road. They will begin mobilising their equipment and personnel to site in late October with site works expected to commence in early November. Daracon was established in the early '80's and has offices throughout the Upper Hunter and various New South Wales locations.



Member News



Sharing information with Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC)

The Mount Pleasant Operation Rail-2 Project (R2P) will run over a similar time period as the ARTC Muswellbrook Bridges Replacement Project, so we took the opportunity to invite members of the ARTC environment and community team to MPO to share details about R2P and the mining process overall.

ARTC then took the time to show us around their Muswellbrook Bridges Replacement Project which includes the replacement of rail bridges over the Hunter River, Muscle Creek and Bridge Street.

Pictured top right: left at the Mount Pleasant Operation from L-R, Leah Cook Principal Advisor – Environment and Community ARTC, Julie Sutton Community Engagement Advisor ARTC, Chloe Annandale Environment Advisor MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation, Peter York Environment and Community Superintendent Thiess - Mount Pleasant Operation, Lachlan Crawford Environment Advisor ARTC and Jillian Cowbum Environment and Community Coordinator ARTC.

Pictured right: at the ARTC Project site from L-R, ARTC's Jillian Cowburn, Matt Doherty Ecologist, Clint Patterson Project Manager, Belinda Sinclair and at front Julie Sutton. Also pictured, from left, middle, Chloe Annandale, Peter York and Ngaire Baker MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation External Relations Manager.







Pictured above: Ty and Jessie from local Hunter business, Franks Fencing installing rural fencing and gateways on an Overton Road property in preparation for the commencement of R2P work.

Further details

MACH Energy Mount Pleasant have commenced a community engagement program which will seek to identify issues of concern to our near neighbours and the broader Muswellbrook community. We will implement appropriate strategies to address any areas of concern. Updates on the Project will also be shared, and we will maintain contact with neighbours throughout the construction phase. If you would like to know more about the Project, please contact Ngaire or our Community Hotline 1800 886 889. Project updates will also be available on our website: www.machenergy.com.au/currentprojects

Ngaire Baker

MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation External Relations & Community Manager

e. info@machenergy.com.au

Community Hotline

L1800 886 889

Blasting Hotline

L1800 931 872

General Enquiries

L1800 931 873





Tuesday 3rd November 2020

CHAMBER BREAKFAST

Muswellbrook RSL Club

Bridge Street Muswellbrook

7am - 9am

Theme: Local Real Estate Update

MCCI invites members and guests to join us for our October breakfast.

With the current real estate in a ket in Muswellbrook experiencing positive then ds we will have a number of local Real Estate Alen's providing an assessment of the current market, trends over the last couple of years and expectations for the market going forward.

Please note: Covid-19 requirements

A hot Buffet Breakfast will be available, but due to social distancing requirements, the number of attendees will have to be limited to 60 in the auditorium.

RSVP's will therefore have to be accepted on a first in first allocated basis.



COST

\$36.00 for members

\$35.00 for non-members

RSVPs close midday,

Friday 30th October 2020

info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au

Price includes a hot buffet breakfast and tea & coffee.



TRADE Local ENJOY Local



RSVP to Wayne at info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au by midday Friday 30th October

Payment options: Card or cash on the day or request an invoice with your RSVP.

Please advise any dietary requirements with your RSVP.

RSVPs are compulsory and must be paid. If you are unable to attend you may send a colleague in your place.





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.





<u>Coronavirus Information</u> and Support for Business.



<u>Coronavirus Information for the</u> Community and Business.



Business Guide to Coronavirus





Australian Federal Government Coronavirus App—Available to download

2020-2021 Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Inc) Members' Directory

Aaron Henry Optometrist **Edmonds Joinery** Mosaic Therapy and Supports Edward Higgins Parkinson—First National Aberdeen Highland Games* Movin Real Estate A Corp Computers Elks Enterprises Pty Ltd Muswellbrook Coal Co **AEE Services** Muswellbrook Floral Studio Fairfax Regional Media **AGL Energy Limited** Final Form Regeneration Muswellbrook Golf Club Fyfe Pty Ltd **Allweld Services** Muswellbrook Home Hardware ANZ GJ's by the Lake Muswellbrook Motors **APM Employment Services** Godolphin Australia Muswellbrook PCYC AQC Dartbrook and Management GowingAdvisory Accountants Muswellbrook Post Shop **Austmine Limited** Greentree Financial Muswellbrook Race Club Ltd Baybrook Motor Inn Hair by Maddi Muswellbrook RSL Sub-Branch Club Bengalla Mining Company Hallett Home Solutions* Muswellbrook Security Services **BHP Billiton Mount Arthur Coal** Harvey Norman Muswellbrook Muswellbrook Shire Council Muswellbrook South Public School Beauty Co Muswellbrook Harvey Recruitment Big Lift Cranes & Heavy Haulage Hermitage Motel Muswellbrook Steel Supplies Hitachi Construction Machinery Muswellbrook Workers' Club Billie Sharp Business Coaching Hollydene Estate Wines + Vines **Blackrock Industries** MV Solar Pty Ltd Restaurant Blackwoods* Hunter Belle Cheese National Australia Bank **Bowditch Earthmoving Hunter Plant Mechanics** National Plant & Equipment **Briken Group Services Hunter Prestige Catering Newcastle Permanent Brook Medical Centre** Hunter Region Business Hub **New Lucky Star Bistro Brook Outdoors Hunter Valley Elite Window Tinting Northwest Mining Company** Catalyst Plus **Hunter Valley Mediation Services OAS Technology Group** Cattle Dog Café & Florist **Hunter Valley Operations** Ochre Opportunity Hub Central Arcade Pty Ltd **Hunter Valley Printing** Pet Medical **Challenge Community Services** Ice Box Liquor Pirtek Muswellbrook **Chandler Macleod Group** Integratedliving Australia Ltd Pukara Estate **Pumps & Pipeline Services Compass Housing** JTS Realty Comprint Solutions Pty Ltd Jennifer Lecky & Associates **Pursehouse Rural** Joblink Plus Muswellbrook Coolmore Australia **RAP Surveying CPR Pest Management Services** LCC Asia Pacific Radio Hunter Valley C-Res ⊔ Hooker Railway Hotel **CRJ** Maintenance Livmedia Raine & Horne Muswellbrook **Curtis Gant Betts** Lotus Energy Cooperative Regional Australia Bank MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd **RHM Consulting Engineers** Daracon Group Davies Thompson & Wright Services Malabar Coal Richard Gill School Dayarne Smith Copywriter Mangoola Coal Operations **RMS Services** Denman Legal Pty Ltd Mark Diggins Solicitor Roger Skinner Photography Dezigns Hub* Maxwell Spark Electrical Pty Ltd SGS Australia **Double Picc** Melanie's Jewellers Sincerus Mindset Coaching* Doug & Roslyn Cleal Merton Living **Small Forest Wines** Monadelphous Engineering Pty Ltd **Equilaw Solicitors** Sparke Helmore Lawyers **EMF Group Pty Ltd** Monteath Powys Speaking in Colour

2020-2021 Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Inc) Members' Directory

Specific Solutions*

Supply Solutions Group

TAFE NSW

Telstra Shop—Muswellbrook

The Chop Shop
Teterin Supply

The Business Centre

The Happy Tooth Muswellbrook

The Hunter App

The Chop Shop Butchery

The Red Door Community Kitchen

The Remington

Think Goat
Thiess Pty Ltd

Tradecore Industries Pty Ltd

TransCare Hunter Ltd

Tutt Bryant Heavy Lift & Shift

Two Rivers Wines

Unity Bank

United Contract Services

UON Upper Hunter

Upper Hunter Automotive

Upper Hunter Community Services

Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music

Upper Hunter Fire Protection

Upper Hunter Homeless Support

Upper Hunter Show Inc

Valley Fasteners Muswellbrook

Vicki Collins Travel Partners

Warburton Estate Agents

*Indicates Associate Member

Warrior Disability Services

Wear Parts Services

Westpac

Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service

Whiteman Welding

Wideland Motor Group

Workpac Ptv Ltd

Yore Contractors Pty Ltd

Youth Express

1800 Mr Excavate

New Members

Business Australia

The Royal Hotel

OUR MISSION

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

This Newsletter is proudly sponsored by:



indicates Associate Memb