

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

PRESIDENTS REPORT TO MEMBERS 2020-2021

02/08/2021

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report on the Chamber's activities and achievements for the year ending 30th June, 2021

Since late 2019 the world has seen dramatic changes to the way business is done. The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the workforces, profitability and supply chains logistics of businesses large & small. Despite the negative impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, our local economy has been somewhat insulated due to our reliance on essential service industries and an increasing commitment to local procurement and employment. However, we are very mindful of the impacts on our local tourism, hospitality & retail sectors. Pubs, Clubs, Cafes, Small Retailers and tourist destinations, were hit hard. The cycle of 'lock downs' and opening up seems to be with us for much the financial year ahead.

When Members look at this year's Report from our Treasurer, Lorraine Skinner, it will be apparent that the Chamber is in a solid financial position. We enjoy the support of over 200 members and many sponsors to run programs and events for member's benefit.

Likewise, when looking at the report from Member Services Manager, Wayne Toms, you will see that, while the Covid-19 restrictions have curtailed some activities, we have maintained a strong presence in the local economy and staged some very successful events.

The Chamber continues to support economic diversity and collaboration between all industry sectors. The Chamber remains focused on the immediate and longer term need of members. Our Mission - "To represent, promote and encourage business enterprise in Muswellbrook and it's districts", commits us to our continued program of events and services. It also, drives our involvement in various private and public sector committees and focus groups. In the year ahead, we will continue to provide information on significant major developments planned for our local economy. These include –

- The Muswellbrook Bypass construction planned for 2022 to 2025.
- The Upgrades at Liddell & Bayswater Power Stations.
- The Closure of Liddell Power Station scheduled for 2023 and the emergence of potential new alternative industries on that site.
- The closure of Bayswater Power Station in 2035.
- The development of the Maxwell underground mine.
- The determination of the continuation of the Mt. Pleasant mine beyond 2026.
- Various wind, solar and pumped-hydro projects.
- The expansion of the UON & TAFE facilities at the Tertiary Education Centre.
- Muswellbrook Shire Council's range of Town Centre projects like the Performing Arts and Conference Centre.

On behalf of all members, I sincerely thank my fellow volunteer Directors for their continuing support –

- Vice President, Michael Carey (Muswellbrook Motors)
- Secretary, Genelle Scotts (Bengalla Mining Co.)
- Treasurer, Lorraine Skinner (Melanies Jewellers)
- Jennifer Lecky (Lecky & Associates Accountants)
- Amber Wright (Equilaw Solicitors)
- Phil Farquharson (Hunter Plant Mechanics),
- Troy Martin (TGM Enterprises)
- Ross Peasley (RAP Surveying)

All have taken time out of their working day to attend to Chamber matters and supported me in my role.

A special thanks to our Member Services Manager, Wayne Toms, who has brought strength to the Chambers capacity to serve and increased our engagement with members.

In conclusion, I wish all members the best for a successful 2021-2022 trading year. I hope you will approach it with confidence and commitment to your business and continue to SHOP/TRADE/ENJOY & PLAY LOCAL.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Kelly
President MCCI