

BUSINESS UPDATE

December 2022

November Chamber Breakfast

Our November Breakfast celebrated it being Small Business Month across NSW.

Special guests included NSW State Deputy Premier, Paul Toole, Upper Hunter State MP Dave Layzell, Federal Member for Hunter Dan Reprocholi, and Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor Steve Reynolds.

The Deputy Premier spoke on the importance of small business and the significant role they play in both the local and the State's economy. He also went on to congratulate the Chamber for its work on supporting small business owners in the area.

Those attending also heard from a number of our small business members who gave a brief outline of their businesses. These included Sarah English from Sarah English Marketing, plus Geoffrey Bowditch and Grace Mosley who spoke about them becoming the new owners of the Muswellbrook Laundrette, and their plans for the business. Also on the agenda was Peter Hodder from Ekulpoint, but he was a late apology due his family having Covid-19. We hope to have Peter back some time in the near future to talk about his new on-line business.



Photos courtesy of Laurie Sullivan—Cre8ive Solutions



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Dear Members & Colleagues,

As we approach Christmas, there is a sense of confidence in the air. Rising interest rates have not dampened our local real estate market and inflation has not subdued expectations for a record Christmas trading period.

Having recently driven in Sydney and the Central Coast, I can understand why there is a migration from the city to regional areas. We continue to see people moving to Muswellbrook to retire or work from home. We are also seeing some move from the lower Hunter to be closer to work.

November's Small Business Month was a big one for the Chamber, with the Deputy Premier speaking at our Breakfast and three (3) local small businesses talking about their business and plans for the future.

In the month of November, we had the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Community Forum, the Newcastle University Presentations and workshop on Current & Future Innovation in the Region, the 'turning of the first sod' at Malabar Coal's Maxwell project and Small Business workshops and mentoring sessions. All were indicators of a strong local economy with good prospects for the future. Even though the UHMD Community Day highlighted the need for review and change to mine rehabilitation planning regulations, there was a strong sense of continued prosperity in that sector.

In December, we take time to support those in our community who are struggling. The Red Door Kitchen will host our Breakfast with speakers from local Not-for-Profit and Community support organisations. We can all support food & toy appeals as well as supporting local businesses with our Christmas shopping. Maybe 'We Live Here Cards' would be a good Christmas gift for family, friends and employees. These can be purchased at Muswellbrook Council Offices and Melanies Jewellers in the Marketplace.

The Chamber is approaching Christmas and 2023 with confidence and I thank you all for your support through 2022.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Kelly

President



OUR MISSION

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

Muswellbrook Chamber a Finalist in NSW State Business Awards

Recently we attended the prestigious NSW State Business Awards where the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry was a finalist in the Outstanding Local Chamber category.

The event, staged at 'The Venue' in Sydney, saw over one hundred and twenty finalists across fourteen award categories represented. In the Outstanding Local Chamber category there were eight finalists nominated from across the state. Business Lismore (Chamber) took out the award in recognition of the devastating floods in Lismore and surrounds this year.



We are extremely honoured and proud to have been nominated for the State Awards, and it follows on from us winning the Outstanding Local Chamber award at the Hunter Business Awards held earlier this year. This was the second consecutive year that the Muswellbrook Chamber had won the Hunter award.

These recognitions are testament to the members and supporters of the Chamber. Through their ongoing support we continue to be able to deliver initiatives and programs that are relevant and meet the needs of both business and the community in Muswellbrook.

Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry has built a reputation as being one of the most proactive and well supported chambers in the State. This has largely been driven by a dedicated Board of volunteer Directors, and the exceptional leadership of its executive.

The last few years have been very challenging for many, and the Chamber is proud that it has been able to continue its valuable work despite those challenges.

With a new year approaching, the Chamber will continue to focus on delivering to members and the broader community whilst staying true to our mission statement, "To represent, promote and encourage business enterprise in Muswellbrook and it's districts."



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Chamber President's address to the gathering at the 'Turning of the first sod' at Malabar Coal's Maxwell Underground Project. Friday 25th November 2022.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I echo the Acknowledgement of Country given by Christopher Donohue earlier and pay my respects to the Wanaruah people, and their elders past, present and emerging.

Today is a special day for our local economy and the Muswellbrook Chamber congratulates Malabar Coal on bringing this project to reality. The Chamber welcomes and congratulates you on your over \$220m investment and your persistence in navigating the NSW Planning Approvals process. We also congratulate you on your innovative approach to this project by developing a metallurgical coal resource and including renewable energy elements and best practice rehabilitation techniques on the site. This project adds an extra \$700m per annum to the Hunters export business with flow on benefits to numerous small businesses.

On behalf of our 200 members the Muswellbrook Chamber has supported this development from the DA application stage, through to your most recent Modification Application. The Chamber has welcomed your participation in our monthly breakfasts with project updates, from time to time, to keep local businesses informed. We also acknowledge your contributions to a range of community organisations and projects and express a sincere appreciation for your support of our recent Great Cattle Dog Muster in September this year. This was an event that attracted over 3000 visitors from around the region, the State and even overseas. This would not have been possible without the support of 36 local businesses including Malabar.

In Muswellbrook, and the Upper Hunter generally, we are fortunate to have a mining fraternity that recognises the importance of the local community, local employment and local procurement. The Chamber has always fostered a collegial approach to our business by promoting local networking and Business-to-Business trade. We welcome Malabar's commitment to majority local employment of up to 350 people and your desire to utilise local businesses as much as possible for the supply of products and services for your ongoing operations. It is good to see that New Hope Group has taken a 15% interest in this project. Through their ownership of Bengalla they too have demonstrated strong support for the local community over many years. We are pleased to have Malabar Coal as part of our local business community and we look forward to working with you for many years to come.

On behalf of the Chamber, I wish you all the best for a profitable and sustainable business.

Mike Kelly

President MCCI

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YOUR MCCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

PRESIDENT

Mike Kelly
0417 408 127

Vice PRESIDENT

Michael Carey
0414 415 185

TREASURER

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0431 705 672

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0427 585 617

Amber Wright
0411 088 605

Cam Halfpenny

MEMBER

SERVICES

MANAGER

Wayne Toms
0438 517 311



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.](#)

[Making Muswellbrook](#)

[The Great Cattle Dog Muster](#)

The Member Services Manager role is proudly supported in partnership with BHP's Local Buying Foundation.



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Small Business Month Business Workshops

In November the Chamber conducted a full day of free Business Workshops. The day consisted of a series of workshops covering sessions on Business Planning, Marketing, Cyber Security, and Recruitment. Participants could elect to attend all day or selected sessions.

As we now start to recover and rebuild from the pandemic, each of the workshops had been identified by the Chamber as being needed by businesses to not only move forward, but to also future proof themselves.

Special thanks to Julian Campbell from ETC Management for his session on Business Planning, Sarah English from Sarah English Marketing, the team from New Era Technology for covering the topic on Cyber Security, and Programmed Skilled Workforce for their session on Recruitment.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of the Local Buying Foundation for providing funding to stage the workshops.

Those attending the workshops all gained valuable information that will assist each in the respective businesses.

Group photo courtesy of Laurie Sullivan - Cre8ive Solutions



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New Chamber Members

Muswellbrook Cinema

Ph: 6541 4443

Visit: [Website](#)



State of the art twin Cinema Complex.

Hunter Valley Supports

Ph: 0265430290

Visit: www.hvsupports.com



Registered NDIS Provider based in Singleton delivering supports for Home, Community, Employment, Groups and Nursing Care, Coordination of Supports, Supported Independent Living and Respite.

Top Dog Bath & Groom

Ph: 0412527727

Visit: www.top-dog.com.au



Small family start up business looking to expand and accommodate the need for dog grooming in the upper hunter area

Muswellbrook Laundrette

24 Bridge Street,
Muswellbrook

Ph: 0455037409



Laundry services for domestic, commercial and industrial items.



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— 2023 UPPER HUNTER —
INSPIRATIONS
CONFERENCE



'INNER STRENGTH - NO LIMITS'

ITS TIME FOR A LITTLE INSPIRATION

Inner strength has no limits when overcoming challenges and achieving goals

10am to 5pm | Saturday 20th May 2023
Muswellbrook RSL Auditorium



FEATURING

Gavin Morris, Julie Cross and Craig Hamilton
Plus a host of local inspirational presenters.

\$70 per ticket (excl GST) Includes Light Lunch



MUSWELLBROOK
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
& INDUSTRY



Registrations via: www.eventbrite.com.au (Inspirations Conference)

2022 Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Community Forum



The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's 2022 Community Forum was recently conducted in collaboration with the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The event, held at the Muswellbrook RSL, saw over 120 delegates in attendance.

The Dialogue would like to thank everyone who attended the Forum.

The valuable input and involvement in discussion sessions will help the Dialogue plan and prepare for future projects and initiatives in the coming years.



2022 Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Community Forum



2023 Great Cattle Dog Muster



2023 Great Cattle Dog Muster

Sponsorship Opportunities
Now Available.

Contact:

Wayne Toms

0438 517 311

info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au

Sponsorship Opportunities are limited and are secured on a first in - first allocated basis.

The Great Cattle Dog Muster

Community Family Fun Day



Muswellbrook Showground
10am - 4pm Saturday 9th Sept

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A **FREE LIVE CONCERT** for the whole family featuring Adam Harvey, The Collective, Star Struck Performers and the best of local artists. John Morris, Joel Gosper, Chris London, The Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music, Upper Hunter Voices, Richard Gill School, Pacific Brook Christian School, Muswellbrook Physical Culture and more performing all your favourite Christmas Carols.

DATE: Saturday 10th December 2022

Gates open at 3pm

Music and Festivities from 3pm.

Culminating in a massive fireworks display!

VENUE: Muswellbrook Show Ground

Come along and enjoy the biggest Christmas concert in the Upper Hunter, Free Petting Zoo and Free Jumping Castle Rides. Market Stalls, Free Face Painting and plenty more. Help support 2NM and Power FM Food and Toy Appeal. There will be plenty of food available for purchase on the night or bring along a picnic for your family and friends. NO Alcohol/no pets. Don't forget your picnic blanket, insect repellent and sunscreen.

ENTRY IS FREE.

For more information, please head to:

www.2nm.com.au or www.981powerfm.com.au



A FREE NUPREP SHORT COURSE IN MUSWELLBROOK



Take part in a FREE education and development program provided in partnership with the University of Newcastle

5 - 9 December 2022



YOU'RE INVITED TO FREE COURSES THAT CAN BE COMPLETED IN ONE WEEK!

Together with Muswellbrook Shire Council and the Mayor, Steven Reynolds, the University invites you to study a FREE NUPrep short course this December.

Commencing Monday December 5 with a one-week duration, come together with your community while you study a free short course.

STUDY A FREE SHORT COURSE THIS DECEMBER AND GET A TASTE OF UNIVERSITY-STYLE STUDY

Location: The University of Newcastle Upper Hunter, 87 Hill Street, Muswellbrook, NSW, 2333 (with some components online).

Commences: Monday December 5, 2022

Duration: One week

Courses on offer: Foundation Mathematics and Writing for University

Enquiries: NUPrep@newcastle.edu.au or 02 4921 7791

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR STEVE REYNOLDS:

"The partnership between Muswellbrook Shire Council and University of Newcastle goes from strength to strength.

In December the Upper Hunter Campus, housed in the Hunter Innovation Centre - the heart of education, research and engagement activities which will help shape the future of our region - is hosting two free face-to-face short courses.

I urge any community member who is seeking to broaden their skill base or to experience university-style study to take advantage of this new program and take the opportunity to study a free short course through the University of Newcastle."

FOR MORE INFORMATION
NEWCASTLE.EDU.AU/MUSWELLBROOK





Have you registered your business to participate in the 'We Live Here' card program?

The "We LIVE Here" local investment cards work like an EFTPOS gift card once loaded, and are only be able to be used with participating businesses, ensuring local expenditure and economic development for the region.

This program isn't just for retailers. Local businesses from health professionals, B2B, mechanics and more have all signed up to the program.

The cards can be loaded with funds from \$20 to \$1000, can only be loaded once (no top ups) but can be used multiple times or spent all at once. They expire after three years.

Purchasers can check card balances online or by phone, and registered cards can be replaced if lost.

Register your business online: <https://www.whyleavetown.com/register>

The more participating businesses we have, the greater choice individuals will have in how to use the funds.



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MUSWELLBROOK
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
& INDUSTRY

Tuesday 6 December 2022

CHAMBER BREAKFAST

Venue: "Red Door Kitchen"

Uniting Church, 114 Bridge Street Muswellbrook

7am - 9am

Theme:

Community Organisations

MCCI invites members and guests to join us for our December Breakfast.

In the lead up to Christmas, we will be hearing from representatives from a number of Community organisations and the work they do.

Please Note: Due to the size of the venue attendees will need to be limited to a maximum of 60.



COST:

\$33.00* for members

\$38.50* for non-members

(* incl of GST)

RSVPs close midday,

Thursday 1st December 2022

info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au

Price includes a hot buffet breakfast and tea & coffee.

Making
MUSWELLBROOK
A GREAT
PLACE TO...



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



RSVP to Wayne at info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au by midday Thursday 1st December

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.

1800 Mr Excavate	Cetnaj Muswellbrook	GJ's by the Lake	Lake Liddell Recreation Area Trust
A Corp Computers	Challenge Community Services	Gowing Advisory	Launchpad9 Pty Ltd
AEE Services	Chandler Macleod	Greentree Financial	Lavis Mitre IO
AGL Macquarie	Cleal, Doug & Roslyn	Hair by Maddi	Liv Media
APM	Colourworks for Hair	Harvey Recruitment	MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd
Aaron Henry Optometrist	Commonwealth Bank	Hedweld Group of Companies	MV Solar Pty Ltd
Aberdeen Highland Games	Comprint	Hermitage Motel	Malabar Coal Ltd
Airspeed Aviation	Coolmore Australia	Hive Fitness	Mangoola Coal Operations
Allweld Services	Cre8ive Solutions	Hitachi Construction Machinery (Aust) P/L Muswellbrook Branch	Mark Diggins Solicitor
Ausgrid	Crossfit Muswellbrook	Hollydene Estate Wines + Vines Restaurant	Melanie's Jewellers
Austmine Limited	Curtis Gant Betts	Hunter Belle Cheese	Melt Hunter Valley Operations Pty Ltd
Australian Community Media	DK Heavy Plant Services	Hunter Carpet & Tile Care	Merton Living
BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal	Davies Thompson & Wright Services	HunterNet Cooperative	Mikala Lighting Towers
Beacon Automatiom	Denman Legal Pty Ltd	Hunter Plant Mechanics	Monteath Powys
Beauty Co	Dezigns Hub	Hunter Region Business Hub	Mosaic Therapy & Supports Pty Ltd
Bengalla Mining Company	Dirragarra Contracting Pty Lt	Hunter River Times	Mountain of Love
Beyond Dog Training	Domino's Muswellbrook	Hunter TAFE	Muswellbrook Cinema
Blackrock Industries	Double Picc	Hunter Valley Operations	Muswellbrook & District Workers' Club
Blackwoods	Duffeyco Electrical Solutions	Hunter Valley Printing	Muswellbrook Laundrette
Bowditch Earthmoving	EMF Group	Hunter Valley SUP	Muswellbrook Motors
Breathe Skin Body Mind	Edmonds Joinery	Innovationclub Pty Ltd	Muswellbrook PCYC
Briken Group Services Pty Ltd	Edward Higgins Parkinson First	Integratedliving Australia Ltd	Muswellbrook Race Club Ltd
Brook Enviro Services	Ekulpoint - Mapping Memories	iSimplify Pty Ltd	Muswellbrook RSL Sub-Branch Club Ltd & Golf Club
Brook Medical Centre	Elks Enterprises Pty Ltd	JTS Realty	Muswellbrook Security Services
Brook Outdoors	Envy Cleaning & Property Maintenance	Jennifer Lecky & Associates	Muswellbrook Shire Council
CPR Pest Management Services	Equilaw Solicitors	Joblink Plus	Muswellbrook South Public School
C-Res	Everest by Chef Raymond	Jo Bailey Quality Care Pty Ltd	Muswellbrook Steel Supplies P/L
CRJ Maintenance Pty Ltd	First National Real Estate-Edward Higgins Parkinson	John Hunter Motel	NBN/NBN Local
Cattle Dog Florist & Café	Fyfe Pty Ltd	LJ Hooker Muswellbrook	NSW Business Chamber—Business
Central Arcade Pty Ltd			

Australia	Roger Skinner Photography	The Red Door Community Kitchen (Inc)	Upper Hunter Youth Services
NSW Minerals Council	Royal Hotel Denman	The Royal Hotel	Valley Fasteners Muswellbrook
National Australia Bank	Rural Recycling Pty Ltd	Thiess Pty Ltd	Warburton Estate Agents
Northwest Mining	SGS Australia	Think Goat	Warrior Disability Services
OAS Technology Group	Sarah English Marketing	Top Dog Bath & Groom	Wear Parts Services
Oasis Media Pty Ltd	Satur Veterinary Clinic- Muswellbrook	Tradecore Industries Pty Ltd	Westpac
Ochre Opportunity Hub Upper Hunter	Sincerus Business Group	Transcare Hunter Ltd	Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service
Persas	Small Forest Pty Ltd	Tutt Bryant Heavy Lift & Shift	Whiteman Welding
Pet Medical	Soley's Handyman & Maintenance	Two Rivers Wines	Wideland Motor Group Pty Ltd
Pickering Homestead	Southside Newsagency	UON Upper Hunter	Yore Contractors
Pirtek Muswellbrook	Sparke Helmore	United Contract Services	Youth Express
Pores & Claws	Specific Solutions Pty Ltd	Upper Hunter Automotive	
Pukara Estate	Success Tax Professionals	Upper Hunter Community Services	
Pumps & Pipeline Services P/L	Supply First Aid	Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music	
RMS Services	Supply Solutions Group	Upper Hunter Fire Protection	
RA Peasley Consulting	TAFE NSW	Upper Hunter Homeless Support	
Radio Hunter Valley	TGM Enterprises	Upper Hunter Investments	
Raine & Horne Muswellbrook	TLE Electrical	Upper Hunter Planning	
Recovery Partners	Teterin Supply	Upper Hunter Property Inspections	
Reg Osborn Pty Ltd	The Business Centre	Upper Hunter Regional Museum Inc	
Regional Australia Bank	The Chop Shop Butchery	Upper Hunter Show Inc	
Remington Muswellbrook P/L	The Happy Tooth Muswellbrook	Upper Hunter Turf Services	
Richard Gill School of Music	The Hunter in a Basket		

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