

BUSINESS UPDATE

April 2023

March Chamber Breakfast



Our March Chamber Breakfast was an opportunity for those attending to meet and hear from four of the candidates standing for the seat of Upper Hunter in the NSW State Election. On the panel were Tony Lonergan (Greens), Perree Watson (Labor), James White (Shooters, Fishers and Farmers), and Dave Layzell (Nationals). Unable to attend and extending his apology was Dale McNamara (Independent).

The morning was chaired by Mike Pritchard, formerly from ABC Upper Hunter. Each of the candidates were firstly given four minutes to introduce themselves and outline their policies. This was then followed by questions from the floor where each were allowed three minutes each to respond.



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Dear Members & Colleagues,

Looking back over March, I'm sure you'll agree, it was a very interesting month.

In summary –

- * The Chamber Breakfast hosted the Candidates for the NSW seat of Upper Hunter. I was out-of-town, but I am told it was a most informative session. My thanks to Wayne Toms for managing the event and to Mike Pritchard who was our MC.
- * The State election saw a change of government for the first time in thirteen years with Labor taking power with 45 seats at last count.
- * Our sitting member Dave Layzell held the seat of Upper Hunter and the Chamber congratulates him on his hard work for our region. We look forward to working with Dave and the new government to maintain and grow our local economy.
- * The Upper Hunter Show was a huge success. The Chamber joined twenty other exhibitors at the AGL Energy Hub. The positioning of the Hub was not ideal and we hope to work with the Show Committee to build the event for next year.
- * The Muswellbrook Shire Council has appointed Derek Finnigan as General Manager. We congratulate Derek and look forward to working with him and Council on business matters. Council held a Budget and Operations Breakfast and flagged the need for significant changes to the 2023-24 Budget and the Future Fund. We look forward to the draft budget in late April.
- * BHP Mt. Arthur announced their intention to apply for Modification 2. To extend the mine life from 2026 to 2030. The application is due to be lodged in Quarter 3, 2023 and the Chamber will be making a submission to the DPE.



Looking ahead, April is going to be just as interesting –

- * Our April Breakfast features presentations by NBN Co. and AGL.
- * Liddell Power Station is scheduled to shut down the three (3) remaining units on 28th April.
- * Chamber Business Awards nominations close on 6th April. Judging follows with our Awards Dinner is planned for 2nd June.

Please take note of all our upcoming events in the Newsletter and keep in touch with matters of interest to your business.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Kelly

President

OUR MISSION

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

Celebrating International Women's Day

Chamber Secretary Genelle Scotts was recently invited to be the moderator at a Business Hunter event as part of International Women's Day.

Genelle chaired the panel of three inspiring women, Penny Walker, of Malabar Resources, Bull of WesTrac, and Kari Armitage of Quarry Mining.

The event held at Merewether Surfhouse was the first Business Hunter Energy and Resources luncheon, and was a great way to celebrate women forging new ground in the energy and resources sector.



The Great Cattle Dog Muster

Community Family Fun Day



Muswellbrook Showground
10am - 4pm Saturday 9th Sept



**Letter of gratitude for the 2022 Muswellbrook Chamber
of Commerce & Industry Marketing Program**



Dear Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Inc),

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the 2022 Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry Marketing Program hosted by Livmedia. As a local company, I feel proud to be part of such an enthusiastic group of local businesses committed to driving growth and success in our local community.

The training and support provided by the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce are second to none, and I feel privileged to have access to such high-quality resources. The marketing program was a tremendous success.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Wayne Toms, for his ongoing mentorship, and his tireless efforts in organizing and facilitating this program, and to Livinia from Livmedia for its expertise, time, and support outside this course. We have been delighted to collaborate with Livmedia, which has been instrumental in my personal and business development.

I would also like to extend my profound gratitude to the Local Buying Foundation for generously funding the course fee-free. Their commitment to supporting local businesses is truly remarkable, and we are grateful for their continued support.

As the CEO of Ekulpoint – Mapping Memories, I am proud to be part of Muswellbrook business community that recognizes the value of collaboration and mutual support. The partnership between the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce, Livmedia, and the Local Buying Foundation has created a fantastic platform for local businesses to connect, learn, and grow together.

Fantastic program....

Kind regards

Peter Hodder
Founder CEO
Ekulpoint - Mapping Memories
0403384215
peter.hodder@ekulpoint.com.au



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**2023
Muswellbrook
Business Awards
Presentation Dinner
Friday 2nd June
Muswellbrook RSL Club**



Award Categories

Excellence in Micro Business
 Excellence on Small Business
 Excellence in Business
 Outstanding New Member
 Excellence in Manufacturing
 Making Muswellbrook Award

Excellence in Tourism
 Outstanding Community Enterprise
 Young Business Leader of the Year
 Business Leader of the Year
 Best Presented Business
 Business of the Year



**Nominations/Entries Close
Thursday 6th April**



YOUR MCCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

PRESIDENT

Mike Kelly

0417 408 127

Vice PRESIDENT

Michael Carey

0414 415 185

TREASURER

Lorraine Skinner

0429 329 353

SECRETARY

Genelle Scotts

0431 705 672

DIRECTORS

Troy Martin

0427 585 617

Amber Wright

0411 088 605

Cam Halfpenny

MEMBER

SERVICES

MANAGER

Wayne Toms

0438 517 311



New Chamber Members

Hunter Valley PA Hire

Ph: 0428 616 223

Visit: [Website](#)

HUNTER VALLEY PA HIRE

PA SYSTEM HIRE FOR BANDS AND CORPORATE EVENTS TO PARTY'S AND TRADE SHOWS



PA Systems for Corporate Events, Trade Shows, Bands and Party's.
Hunter Valley PA Hire can supply all Front of House equipment and a Sound Engineer for your band, event, wedding, corporate function or trade show. From a simple microphone connected to a speaker so you can be heard to a full system for a discussion panel, band or festival, we have you covered.



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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— 2023 UPPER HUNTER —
INSPIRATIONS
CONFERENCE

'Inner Strength - No Limits'



Saturday 20th May
Muswellbrook RSL Club

Inner strength has no limits when
overcoming challenges and
achieving goals.

**TICKETS
ON SALE NOW**

Via Eventbrite

[Book Here](#)

Book early to avoid disappointment

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Future proof your business

Provide local jobs for young local people

The school-based apprenticeship and traineeship (SBAT) program connects local businesses with students from your local high school.

- Businesses can employ a student to work as a trainee or apprentice while they complete year 11 and year 12.
- Students combine 1 day of paid work, industry training at a certificate II or III level, and attend school as part of their HSC plan.
- For local businesses, SBATs provide you with an opportunity to employ and train local young people, who can contribute to the current and future growth of your business.



"As a business in the hospitality sector, it is important that we continue to attract young people to our industry.

The SBAT program provides a unique pathway for students and helps businesses attract staff."

Geoff Chesworth

Hunter Belle Cheese Cafe

Pictured: Chef Mark with Hunter Belle Cafe's school-based trainee, Josh Rohrich.

Benefits to business

- 1 day per week commitment
- Training costs minimised
- Training an SBAT to fit your workplace
- Building a supported recruitment pathway
- Providing employment opportunities to local youth



For more information on how an SBAT can work in your business, please contact Tracy Forbes, SBAT Engagement Officer on 0460 030 617 or scan the QR code.

This program is an initiative of the Educational Pathways Program.



Proud to be working with Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce



Australian Red Cross
Lifeblood[®]

Give life. Give blood in Muswellbrook.

PCYC, Carl Street
3 to 6 April



Monday 3 April	1.00 pm – 7 pm
Tuesday 4 April	1.00 pm – 7 pm
Wednesday 5 April	10.30 am – 7 pm
Thursday 6 April	10.30 am – 7 pm



Locals Supporting Locals



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 4 April 2023
CHAMBER BREAKFAST

Venue: "Muswellbrook RSL Club"

7am - 9am

Theme:
'AGL and NBN Co Updates

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

The Breakfast will be an opportunity to hear from AGL on the Liddell Power Station Closure, and from NBN Co on planned works in Muswellbrook LGA.



COST:

\$33.00* for members

\$38.50* for non-members

(* incl of GST)

RSVPs close midday,

Thursday 30th March 2023

info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au

Price includes a hot buffet breakfast and tea & coffee.



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



RSVP to Wayne at info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au by midday Thursday 30th March

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

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

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