



We would like to extend a welcome to Katoomba residents and business people who would like to come along and participate in future meetings, or as a way of keeping in touch with recent issues, receive a copy of the monthly minutes. For more information, please contact Chrissie Thompson at swaggy@westnet.com.au or info@katoombachamber.com www.katoombachamber.com

* Annual Subscription fees for membership of the Katoomba Chamber of Commerce & Community are just \$100 for companies, **\$50 for a sole traders** and \$10 for individual community members. Please join and help us grow our membership and our voice for Katoomba

CittaSlow Katoomba Blue Mountains www.cittaslow.org.au

NEXT MEETING - 10th March 2011

Phone number to call for **Coles** trolley collection – and keep calling!

1800 876 553

Monthly Meeting opened at 6.35pm, The Library, Carrington Hotel, Katoomba

1. Present: 10th February 2011

Robert Stock (RS) (President), Peter Carroll (PC) (Vice President)(Rotary), Mark Jarvis (Treasurer), Chrissie Thompson(CT)(Secretary), Marie Wood(MarieW), Christine Killinger(CK), Councillor Janet Mays(CllrMays), Chris Davidson(CD), Guy Fordy(GF), Tim Goodwin(TG), Anton (A), Juliet Green(JG), Eric Hall(EH), Malu Hall(MH), Bob Kemnitz(BK), Karim Rizkalla(KR), Linda Colless(LC), Brigitte MacKenzie(Bendigo Bank), Paul Payten (CittaSlow), Margaret Weatherall, Julie Head, Anne Elliott, Bruce Ferrier, Shane Desiatnik(Gazette), Inspector Max Wallace(BM Police).

Apologies:

Kath Bayliss, Robyn McAdam, Tom Colless, Pam Seaborn.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting10th January 2010.

Accepted by CK. Seconded PC.

Matters arising from the previous minutes:

Addressed further in the minutes.

3. Correspondence:

Letter rec'd 7/2/11 from BMCC requesting the Chamber to put in a DA & detailed map of the installation of our CCTV cameras. Meeting set for 11/2/11 at 11.30am MJ & RS will attend.

Letter rec'd from Auditor General Dept requesting final report on CCTV project.

Letter rec'd from BMCC advising the development of a car parking plan.

Email rec'd from Fantastic Aussie Tours regarding local buses using the Echo Point route.

Email rec'd from Very Fashion regarding street art in the CBD.

Letter rec'd from Cllr El Gibbs promoting 'Midnight Basketball' as a crime prevention strategy – community meeting on 9th March.

Discussion followed, further to email received from Very Fashion regarding street art in CBD:

In response to the 'random acts of art' at Very Fashion in Waratah Street that have been publicised in the Gazette this last week and made known to us by emails direct from Helen Mountford, it was expressed in the meeting that the actions of BMCC had been excessively punitive. The view was expressed that this is not acceptable behaviour from our Council. Cllr Mays advised that she had made representations to Council on Helen's behalf. Cllr Mays said she would be very disappointed if fines or charges were applied to Ms Mountford. Cllr Mays also added that she had expected Peter Mann (BMCC Program Leader Sustainable Town and Centre Villages) would be in attendance at tonight's meeting to discuss this further - but he had not. A notice of motion has also been submitted to the next Council meeting regarding Council's public art policy and how "random acts of art" could work between the community and Council.

The issue was discussed further by acknowledging whilst there is no argument with the 'rules' about art in the street it was felt the issue was about the way Council have dealt with it. When there's pigeon poo everywhere soiling public thoroughfares - where are Council staff then...? It was acknowledged that art is a very subjective thing and if the rules are arbitrary or discriminatory then where do you draw the line between defacement, graffiti and art? The rules are there for good reason - to make sure it's fair for everyone.

4. Meet the Candidates

WE have three confirmations Kerrin O'Grady, Roza Sage, and Janet Mays. Discussion around format – decided on 6 minutes individual introduction followed by panel discussion with pre-prepared questions on local issues. One issue is the Old Goods Yard.

5. Wine Show Report

Numbers through the door were down this year with Flood Fund raising on same weekend. However, sales were up on last year. Winemakers from Orange, Mudgee, Bathurst, Young and Caloundra, and visitors alike, expressed their intentions to come back again next year. There were more stalls at \$350 each this year than the past. Between \$4,000 and \$5,000 raised for the Chamber.

Ideas for next year: bring the food component back in a different format; make sure advertising goes into businesses throughout the CBD, particularly the bottom of Katoomba Street.

6. Pioneer Place

Report to BMCC - Woolworths has put forward a proposal to revamp the current Coles building. It will be enlarged, have 4 new facades. Excavation is proposed for car parking underground the current Coles building and east up to the Post Office and Liquorland in Pioneer Place, and north to Penny Lane.

Woolworths will be seeking influence over the titles of land affected. Council has deferred consideration till next meeting.

7. Flower Pots Working Bee

Working Bee deferred till March.

Tentatively Sunday 20th March at 7.30pm – meet car park next to St Canices

8. Street Art Project

Mountain Youth Services Team, street art committee members and Cllr Mays have walked the CBD looking at possible locations for murals. Certain locations have been earmarked and will be suggested to Council.

Council is currently reviewing its 'Public Art Policy' in view of the 'random acts of art' in Waratah Street recently. This will be on going.

9. CCTV

There have been a lot of repairs recently. Carrington Hotel has paid for repairs to camera and will be reimbursed by KCCC. Work is in the wiring.

The next stage of linking to Council has not yet happened as we would like it to. Tomorrow's meeting with Police and Council will hopefully yield some action.

No footage has actually been used in court, but it's been a terrific deterrent.

The Federal Government were satisfied, it was signed off by the Council and Police, or KCCC wouldn't have got the \$60,000 funding. We're endeavouring to get it right but it's proving harder than anticipated. Council has concerns around needing extra staff at Council's end.

10. CittaSlow update by Paul Payten

In 2007 PP and Anne Elliott got this movement up and running. The website is attracting worldwide attention – CittaSlow Katoomba Blue Mountains – the second CittaSlow city in Australia, and under the auspices of the Katoomba Chamber. BMCC is behind the movement 'in kind'. More discussion next month on how to interface both movements. www.cittaslow.org.au

11. Introducing a New Business

Goodbytes Tech Support for computer repairs, advice, tutoring in your home, office or by remote access. Office opening on Katoomba Street. Owner Guy Fordy says 'technology today is so good that work can be done from the office and travel is not so necessary'. Also offers a service of sending alerts on hackers & scammers.

General Business

Policing update

Insp. Wallace advised the police are very keen to develop a formal legal agreement concerning CCTV. Concern was expressed over the proposed re-development of the current Coles by Woolworths – the intersection of Katoomba & Waratah Streets is causing traffic congestion right now – in future, with both the Coles and Woolworth's redevelopment, it will be horrendous. Emergency response teams are hindered by this intersection and it detours police travelling up Katoomba Street regularly. It was felt a roundabout would be preferable to the current situation – anything to facilitate movement.

Yeaman Bridge Railing

Concern expressed that the bridge railings are to be replaced at huge cost. An extra laneway is actually needed and this repair seems to be short term thinking perpetuating the problem. The Dan Murphy and Cultural Centre development will both put more pressure on current traffic banking up at the roundabout and bridge.

Apparently the quotes for the job have come in but funding didn't quite meet it.

Gazette Article

Front page article in last week's Gazette reporting State Opposition's pre-election promise to help support tourism in the BM. One event in particular was singled out - The Festival of Walking. This idea was put up 18 months ago and has support from Tourism. Cllr Mays also expressed her support.

Bicentennial Committee Update

Committee met 5/2/11 – 3 sub committees formed: Education, Events and Fundraising – celebrating the bicentennial European crossing of the BM and the building of the Cox's Road. BMTL have joined forces with BCC. This is an opportunity to promote BM experience and an appreciation of the history of the area. Noted: the completion of the highway road works now extended to 2016 – the disruption to tourism, business and locals is disgraceful.

Council Pick Up

It was suggested Council should set a priority on picking up household rubbish on main tourism routes and high visitation areas. This service needs better organisation – it portrays a dreadful image to our visitors.

Bush Fire Prevention

Burn off planned Friday 11th Feb. – don't be concerned.

RSPCA need help

RSPCA 'PAW Box' charity collection boxes available to put in your retail outlets – call Shirley 4758 6173
Our local group helped to fund a shelter in a flood affected area in Queensland only to find themselves short now. Please help.

Donation from KCCC to flood affected Queensland

CD has researched the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland with a view to contributing to the flood disaster. CCIQ has a natural disaster assistance program. They have 10,000 small businesses on their role. Previous KCCC meeting identified donating to a small town Chamber of Commerce like ours, in a flood affected area. After presenting research to the meeting it was felt KCCC should contribute \$600 to our local Rotary fundraising.

Motion put by MJ: KCCC write a cheque for \$600 to add to the Rotary fundraising. Seconded BF.
All in favour.

Suggestion

To invite the owners of the Bathurst Road Upper BM Medical Centre to address the KCCC in a future meeting as to why there is no Chemist outlet in the Centre.

'Welcome to Katoomba' Sign

The sign outside the BM hospital in the centre of the split highway should have been removed long ago. It is the wrong one. It is grey and most unappealing. However, it remains.

CittaSlow should be a part of our 'welcome sign' – showing our point of difference, capitalising on the fact Katoomba is an accredited CittaSlow town. It encourages visitors to ask about it.

Welcome Pack

Noted the 'Welcome Pack' is still not available on BMCC's reception desk. Disappointing.

Fire Warning Sign

Sign on highway is too high up for easy maintenance and access is unsafe, so it's not being attended to. Needs to be moved as well as replaced.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

NEXT MEETING - 10th March 2011

Signed by President Robert Stock.....Date

Minutes by Chrissie Thompson
Secretary