



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 by receiving a copy of the monthly minutes.

For more information, please contact the Secretary at info@katoombachamber.com.

Annual Subscription fees for membership of the Katoomba Chamber of Commerce & Community are \$250 for landlords; \$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

www.katoombachamber.com CittaSlow Katoomba Blue Mountains www.cittaslow.org.au

NEXT MEETING – Thursday 14th May 2015

Ordinary Meeting opened at 6.15 pm, at The Library, Carrington Hotel, Katoomba.

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: 9th April 2015

Kerry Brown (KB); Janet Cahill (JC); Tom Colless (TC); Anton Curnow (AC); Anne Elliott (AE); Bruce Ferrier (BF); Lui Friscioni (LF); Juliet Green (JG); Mark Jarvis (MJ); Christine Killinger (CK); Gren Olsen (GO); Roland Tyson; Yolande Tyson; Chris Wolf (CW).

Apologies:

Vanessa Crump; Patricia Lane Gonzales; Robyn McAdam; Jenny McLaughlin; Paul McLaughlin; Lyn Rodda; William Swan; Maree Wood.

2. Minutes from the meeting February 12th 2015

Acceptance proposed - MJ; seconded - CK.

Matters arising from the previous minutes will be discussed below.

3. Correspondence - MJ

- There has been a scare campaign operating in relation to Providential Homes. A brochure was being distributed regarding a proposal for the Eldon Guest House on Lurline St to be used as halfway house/detox unit for homeless people. Some people were concerned that it was going to be a halfway house for prisoners and distributed brochures via letterboxes. JC looked on Facebook and discovered that their real intention is to manage the Eldon Guesthouse for tourists. There will be no rehab unit. The brochure was sent around internally but somehow leaked. Providential will be sticking to using it solely for tourist accommodation/guest boarding house (see emailed copy from MJ attached in Appendix 1). Mark contacted Counsellor Daniel Myles to confirm and there was no mention of rehab on the DA.
- Eric & Malu Hall have resigned from the KCCC as they are now both in Bodington Aged Care Facility. Malu has aggressive terminal cancer. They thank everyone for their association over the years and invite anyone to visit (see letter Appendix B).
- Other correspondence will be referred to when discussing the relevant agenda items.

4. Treasurer's Report - MJ

- Current bank balance: \$14,122.29
- Incoming:

\$250 in new memberships (four)

- Outgoings:

\$672.00 AGM catering and gifts

\$1025.20 Christmas promotion and window prizes

Wines of the West income (\$8,500) to be received shortly should mean the balance is just over \$22,000 by next meeting

Move acceptance the Treasurer's report: CK; seconded: TC

5. **IPART Submission - MJ**

- BM City Council has applied for a rate rise of 10% per annum for 4 years (a 40% increase) on top of existing rates.
- A very good submission to IPART opposing the decision was put together by the combined Blue Mountains combined Chambers.
- None of the three options that were given by the BMCC are suitable. The decision by the BMCC to accept Option 1 because it was voted for by mountains residents is wrong. That was not the case as only 3% of residents participated in the poll and voted for Option 1.
- The Chambers are also critical of the ability of the BMCC to deliver services in a timely and effective manner with any revenue raised from increased rates. There's also no talk of running down the debt level.
- MJ sent letter to the Minister for Local Government (Hon Paul Toole MP) and should have response by the 15th May.

6. **State Election & Promised Traffic Study - MJ**

- During recent State election the issue of traffic was raised. We have a tourist information centre at the wrong end of town; a bridge that is inefficient and causes traffic congestion at the entrance/exit to town etc.
- Roza Sage committed to a traffic study (independent of the BMCC). The newly elected government is still committed to this study. No date has been set but MJ says the Chamber will pursue this.

BF says we need to be actively involved in this.

7. **Lone Pine Avenue and Peace Monument - TC**

- TC and other Rotarians have organised for the Lone Pine Park in Leura to include a peace monument.
- The 'Handshake for Peace' ceremony will be held at Lone Pine Park, Leura on the 18th April at 10.30am.
- It's a family day. The Turkish ambassador is coming in the morning and a sandstone plinth has been built. It includes a sculpture designed by Terence Plowright. The Heathens choir from Blackheath will sing and a couple of new trees will be planted.
- The plaque includes the words of Ataturk:
"Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours... You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace, after having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well."
- A flyer with details is available.

8. Slow Food – AE/MJ

- The Summer Harvest Festival was very successful.
- Next event is Leura Harvest Festival. Leading up to this there was a huge chestnut collecting expedition. Many of the chestnuts collected have now been made into local produce (value adding). Luscious Gourmet Vegetarian Catering made chestnut pate and a local baker is making chestnut/chocolate truffle cake.
- Slow Foods have been approached by the Historic Houses Trust to do a presentation at Rouse Hill.
- While Cittaslow and Slow Food are two separate organisations there was a memorandum of understanding signed to work together. Simply put 'Cittaslow towns provide the infrastructure to allow Slow Food to Flourish'. Katoomba is one of three in Australia and achieved Cittaslow Slow city status in 2007.
- There has been a problem getting annual payment to go to Cittaslow headquarters. There will be a meeting with Andy Turner of the BMCC with AE and others tomorrow (10th April) to get this sorted. More input is needed from the BMCC regarding the payment. 2014 has been paid.
- MJ said we need to be able to hook into the Cittaslow network more in order to promote Katoomba.

9. Goods Yard Carpark - MJ

- At the last meeting MJ mentioned that there was construction being done on the old goods yard.

He sent a letter to Roza Sage and the Minister for Transport (Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP) to find out what they are doing. They have replied and are basically just building nine more car parking spaces. This will be useful for access to the medical centre across the road.

10. Tree Planting in Katoomba St - MJ

- Marie Wood and MJ are part of a committee to get this thing going. The initial plan is to plant 10 to 12 trees and although progress is still very slow the BMCC has agreed to plant ornamental pear trees.
- MJ commented that it would be lovely if this gained momentum and made Katoomba a garden suburb.
- Some people in Lurline Street have been canvassed by the committee and their responses have been put into a submission to show how interested people are in this project
- MJ received letter from Patricia Lane-Gonzales of the BMCC and she has mentioned that 14 trees will be removed between Katoomba St & Gang Gang St before June 2015. MJ wonders why?
- MJ is disappointed at the number of the conifers in pots on Katoomba St that people have damaged or removed. He will be order some more to replace them soon.
- The plants in the pots to go on the power poles are looking healthy (200 ivy geraniums) and BMCC still needs permission from Endeavour Energy to be able to hang them on the poles. The KCCC has taken on the liability insurance. MJ is hoping to have them in place by August or September.

11. New businesses in town - MJ

- **Chris Wolfe** has opened a hairdressing salon on Katoomba Street. He introduced himself to the meeting. He's originally from the mountains and is enjoying being back here. He has been open three months and is pretty much continually fully booked. He has just taken on an apprentice and things are looking positive.
- **Thunderbird** is a new Mexican Café in Katoomba St. The owner, Owen Kuypers was invited to the meeting but is a no show.
- **Skin Deep** is a new clothing store in Katoomba St
- MJ will try to get some of the other new folks here for the next meeting

12. SES cleanup update – Jim Carothers

Jim was a no show.

13. Graffiti Cleaning Update – TC/MJ

We have secured a new young ‘helper’ who was one of the graffiti culprits and is now doing some community service

14. Other matters

Welcome to Roland and Yolanda Tyson who have just moved to Katoomba. They are in the events industry (EVPM – Events Prop Management). They are prop suppliers and have done some high very profile events

Meeting closed 7.35 pm

Next meeting Thursday 14th May 6.15pm – Carrington Library - all welcome.

Signed by President, Mark Jarvis



Minutes by Acting Secretary, Juliet Green

Date 9/4/15

Appendix A



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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It is our intention is to manage The Eldon Guest House at Katoomba.

The Guest House will be open to all people seeking accommodation including backpackers and general tourists.

As is the same with any hotel, motel, backpacker, guest house and boarding house, guests can come various backgrounds. This information is not collected at time of booking or check in. We do not discriminate and it would be impossible and illegal to do so.

There will be no detox/rehab wing at The Eldon. The flyer that was produced was intended as an internal float only and was only to be distributed to selected management at Housing and Community Corrections as an idea and discussion paper seeking feedback. We have decided not to proceed with obtaining permission to do this and will adhere strictly to the approved use of the building as a guest/boarding house.

Department of Housing has paid for clients to stay at The Eldon for many years and they use a variety of existing accommodation in the area.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Hopman'.

Suzanne Hopman
General Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Weir'.

Warren Weir
Director

Appendix B

Eric & Malu Hall'
Boddington Age Care Facility
Wentworth Falls

Dear Mark and friends at the Chamber of Commerce.

Just a note to let you know that we will have to resign our membership of the chamber. We have been assessed by ACAT as being eligible for age care, mainly because Malu has an aggressive terminal cancer. We applied to Boddington and by an amazing chance have been given a double room.(something that other couples have been waiting for elsewhere for years). We love it here in an age care facility not an old peoples home or nursing home much to Malu's satisfaction.

We as always love our Blue Mountains and could not have a better place to spend our last days. Thanks for your company and association for so many years.

Eric and Malu

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric & Malu". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the typed name "Eric and Malu".