



KATOOMBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY

Meeting Minutes 10 August 2023

ABN 56 035 388 431

We would like to extend a welcome to Katoomba residents and businesspeople who are interested in coming along and participating 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 secretary@katoombachamber.com Annual Subscription fees for membership of the Katoomba Chamber of Commerce & Community are \$250 for landlords; \$100 for companies; \$50 for sole traders; and \$10 for individual community members. Please join to help us grow our membership and our voice for Katoomba.

Visit: www.katoombachamber.com

The next KCCC Meeting will be held on Thursday 14 September | Carrington Hotel at 6:15pm

Opening: 6:30pm

1. Attendance & Apologies – 10th August 2023

Present: Mark Jarvis (MJ), David Hodgekiss (DH), Margaret Brown (MB) Charlie Brown (CB), Kerry Brown (KB), Peter Carroll (PC), Bruce Cash (BC) Deb Cash (DC), Bruce Ferrier (BF), Helen Jones (HJ), Bob Kemnitz (BK), Christine Killinger OAM (CK),

Welcome: Kathy Gavidia-Service NSW for Business, Nicole Roberts-BMCC, Fatima Tutun -CBA, Georgia Adamson-Kindllehill

Apologies: Jennifer Scott, Pam Seaborne

Motions:

2. Minutes of the meeting from 13 April 2023

- Acceptance proposed by - BF; Seconded by - PC; motion carried.

3. Treasurer Report – DH

- KB queried if Treeline Lurline's expenses should come from Treeline Lurline funding. MJ advised that KCCC will incur expenses as the Treeline Lurline funding is for direct project works and will not cover all Treeline Lurline administration fees incurred by the chamber on behalf of the project.

4. RSPCA – Bob Kemnitz

- Bob Kemnitz was invited to provide a further update on the Local RSPCA shelter following the recent public meeting.
- It was advised that 93 people attended the public meeting including residents and animal lovers alike.
- BK gave an overview of the current situation and circulated information to chamber members.
- BK strongly suggested that campaigning should include other animal welfare and care organisations to present a unified and strong case against the current RSPCA board.
- Bob Kemnitz advised members that the CEO has breached conventions of this charity's commission for the improper use of funds donated to the RSPCA and is seeking media coverage to bring light to this situation. It was suggested that perhaps Sky New might be a suitable platform.
- Bob Kemnitz expressed his belief that the RSPCA Katoomba Shelter is now closed in retribution for community concerns and complaints over the proposed redevelopment of Katoomba shelter.
- Bob Kemnitz raised concerns over the demolition of the Katoomba shelter as BMCC must have a temporary shelter/care facility available for animals that become abandoned.
- BK asked MJ to provide a submission on behalf of the KCCC. Submissions close on 18th of August.

5. Katoomba Street Café Project – Georgia Adamson

- MJ invited Georgia Adamson of Kindle Hill High School to address committee members and give a brief overview of the Katoomba Street Café Project.
- The project started as a way of addressing real-world issues in the year 11 and 12 curriculum. The project focuses on reducing plastic waste by replacing plastic milk bottles with 10-litre milk 'bladders' aimed at café and restaurant owners.
- Georgina has met with Coles, members of the public and local café owners to gauge interest. Whilst the machines are expensive, Georgina is looking to get support for this project through local community groups, local chambers and council.
- Georgina is in communication with a company that can provide this solution however the cost of the machine - called the Juggler - is quite high.
- Georgia is looking at avenues to raise funds for this project to make it more affordable for café owners to implement.
- A meeting has been set up with local MP Trish Doyle.
- The project aims to secure approximately 50% of the required funding through Council.
- PC from Bendigo Bank suggested applying for sponsorship from Bendigo Bank.

- BF suggested that service stations may also be interested in this project (not just local café owners) and that Georgina could speak to Ben Dunn from The Dunn Group who owns a number of Balmain Coffee outlets in BP service stations within the mountains. MJ would send an email to Ben Dunn on behalf of Katoomba Chamber regarding this project.
- It was suggested that Georgina could contact Simon Marnie from ABC radio as well as Brenda Cunningham-Lewis from Blue Mountains Gazette (email: bclewis@bluemountainsgazette.com.au) as this is a good news story and will help to generate interest and support.

6. Project Updates – Nicole Roberts BMCC

- Nicole Roberts from BMCC place management gave an update on Katoomba Town Centre Project.
- Via WestInvest council has secured funding for projects in Katoomba
- Nicole advised that whilst the grant was successful, BMCC do not have funding details however the funding (including 7.5 million from the WestInvest program and 1.5 million for the civic centre) will include improvements to Katoomba Town Centre. Improvements to Carrington Place. Improving wayfinding in Katoomba. Upgrades and improvements to amenities and street furniture. Pedestrian improvements.
- Nicole advised Chamber members that the Council will communicate with KCCC and the community to workshop community ideas which will shape the project once the funding deeds are received.
- KB queried why the grant was successful however there are no details on what the funds are to be spent on.
- Nicole advised that Council have included particular projects in their submission however have not received final details and therefore are not able to announce what the funding will be ultimately used for until this information is received.
- BF asked if the funding is inflation proof as the submission was applied for in 2022. Nicole Roberts advised that contingencies have been added into account for increased costs due to delays.
- There was united dissatisfaction from KCCC regarding the Civic Centre project as Council started by implementing artwork rather than focusing on necessary amenities and improvements for Katoomba as per submission requests from chamber and community members.
- Concerns were raised over the delays to deliver on the civic centre project. NR advised that there were delays with the design process and Westinvest application. It was further advised that whilst an extension has been applied for, the current timeframe for delivery is the end of 2023.
- It was further raised that BMCC should look to increase resources in their horticultural teams. Currently, BMCC does not look after street plants, planter boxes or weeding on Katoomba Street. This is done by KCCC volunteers. NR advised that discussions are occurring and that Place Management teams are putting extra pressure on Council to ensure internal teams can allocate resources.

- There was a discussion about safety concerns over the Speed hump on Katoomba Street as the barriers have been removed. Without barriers, the speed hump looks like a pedestrian crossing and as such it is being used as one by the public. NR advised that Blue Mountains Council is working on improving this so that pedestrians do not use this area as a crossing.

7. Golf Course Submission

- MJ will provide further information as an attachment with the August Minutes.

8. Treeline Lurline Update – KB/MJ

- MJ expressed concerns and was unsure why the federal government are seeking to recover funding from this project or to stop the project from continuing.
- MJ met with the Katoomba RSL
- The above-ground work is commencing. Trees and furniture will not commence until April 2024.
- BMCC has engaged a designer. BMCC will engage contractors and communicate this with the Treeline Lurline committee. Once approved by the committee, KCCC will pay contractor/consultant fees upfront to BMCC from the Treeline Lurline Fund.
- The designs are to be finalised by the end of 2023.

9. Parking Update – MJ

- Mayoral Reference Group member Seb Camilleri will attend the next KCCC Meeting.
- MJ expressed concerns that the parking meters will not resolve BMCC's outstanding debt and suggested the council need to look at other ways to raise funds.
- The retail landscape in Katoomba has changed with discretionary spending low which is impacting retailers in Katoomba. Paid parking meters will affect domestic tourists and in turn, this will see a further decline in tourism to Katoomba.

10. Future Meetings

MJ advised the next meeting will be held on 14 September 2023.

Meeting concluded at 8:20pm