



## KATOOMBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY

Meeting Minutes 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2022

ABN 56 035 388 431

We would like to extend a welcome to Katoomba residents and business people 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](mailto: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](http://www.katoombachamber.com)

**The next KCCC Meeting will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Meeting Commenced at:** 6:25pm

### 1. Attendance & Apologies – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**Present:** Mark Jarvis (MJ), Christine Killinger (CK), David Hodgekiss (DH), Margaret Brown (MB), Greg Hansen (GH), Lynne Curan (LC), Lui Friscioni (LF), Louise Florence (LF), Kerry Brown (KB), Pam Seaborn (PS), Bruce Cash (BC), Deb Cash (DC), Jennifer Scott (JS), Paul McLaughlin (PM), Jenny McLaughlin (JM), Nick Cluney (NC), Kiam Aiken (KA), Katheryn Aiken (KA), Bruce Ferrier (BF), Kevin Schreiber (KS), Kelly Walls (KW), Diana Hofland.

**Visitors:** Tony Mitchell (TM) Police Duty Manager – Katoomba, Veechi Stuart (VS) Blue Mountains Writers Festival.

**Apologies:** Tony Clark (National Parks and Wildlife), Tomas Van Der Meer (Place Manager BMCC)

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### Motions:

### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

Acceptance proposed by - CK ; Seconded by - GH; motion carried

### 3. Correspondence

- Welcome to new members Nick Cluney and Kelly Walls
- Welcome to NSW Police Duty Officer Tony Mitchell (Blue Mountains LAC – Katoomba)
- MJ discussed funds were received for the Grand Cliff Top Walk project and work has now been completed.
- MJ mentioned that Tomas Van Der Meer, the new Place Manager at BMCC, was unable to attend the Chamber meeting this evening. MJ advised a meeting will be held in the coming weeks.
- MJ mentioned works commencing on Treeline Lurline Project
- Discussed that the grant for \$21 million had been submitted through the West Invest Project

- MJ disclosed that the chamber provided letters of support for much-needed upgrade work to Katoomba Street particularly for paving. These letters will assist Blue Mountains City Council in achieving a successful application outcome
- It was noted that the Development Application for a new Medical Centre in Katoomba was published in the Blue Mountains Gazette with approval achieved.
- It was noted that there is Federal Government Signage advising of works commencing to upgrade the pedestrian crossing and other civil works. LF enquired as to whether it was necessary to have additional signage as it is unnecessary given the numerous signs in Katoomba.
- MJ mentioned that BMCC conducted community engagement regarding works however when asked if any member had received engagement from BMCC and it was noted that no member received engagement regarding this project. MJ will contact Council via email to enquire further about the proposed community engagement process.

#### 4. Treasurer's report – DH

<b>Opening balance:</b>		<b>\$23,130.08</b>
<b>Income:</b>	\$500	
Membership fees:	\$1450.00	<b>\$ 1950.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Katoomba Electrical	\$248.55	
Treeline Website (Tara White)	\$300.00	
Design Heroes (Snowmania)	\$594.00	
Heart of Stone (Plants / Snowmania)	\$1350.41	<b>\$ 2492.96</b>
<b>Balance:</b>		<b><u>\$ 22,587.12</u></b>

- It was noted that the membership dates are now aligned with the financial year period being 1 July to 30 June.
- Report acceptance proposed by - KS; Seconded by – JS; motion carried

#### 5. Wines of the West

- MJ advised that Wines of the West will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August.
- This is the first time that Wines of the West is held during winter. The main reason for the change was due to extremely hot weather at the previous year's events (in January) and to allow winemakers more opportunity to showcase their red varieties.
- CK advised that rosters for volunteers had been completed and procedures had been sent out.
- MJ advise that 13 wineries would be exhibiting.
- MJ mentioned that this event was one of the best in Katoomba and encouraged all to attend.

#### 6. Snowmania

- MJ acknowledged LF and chamber members for the success of the inaugural Snowmania event.
- There was great feedback from members of the public and the shops that registered for the Snowmania event.

- LF gave a brief overview of the event mentioning that many people did not initially know what Snowmania was about, however, they were very impressed by the concept and the displays.
- Over 900 votes were cast. Yellow Deli's snowman was voted Mayor of Snowmania with Council allowing the display to remain on the roundabout during the event. Now that the event is over, it has been requested that the display be removed due to it being a distraction to drivers. Heart of Stone's display was voted Deputy Mayor.
- MJ requested that images and a short article be sent to the Gazette following on from Snowmania - Di to action.

## 7. **Police Update – Blue Mountains LAC Duty Officer Tony Mitchel**

- Apologies on behalf of Superintendent Falls who is the new police area commander for the Blue Mountains, however, was unable to attend the meeting.
- Tony Mitchell brings with him a wealth of experience having been with the police for 27 years including many years stationed in Fairfield, St Marys and Mt Druitt.
- TM advised that Blue Mountains Area Command encompasses both Springwood & Katoomba police stations – there is one command and officers go between these two locations covering the Blue Mountains.
- TM advised members that the Blue Mountains is a well-serviced area due to lower crime rates than in other parts of Sydney allowing Blue Mountains Police more time to invest in other aspects of policing such as business inspections and bail compliance (not just crime related incidents).
- TM advised that the Blue Mountains Area Command are very proactive within the community
- Members of the community were invited to ask questions and the following matters were raised:
  - **Bird Feeding in Katoomba** - MJ speaking on behalf of the committee members suggested TM could review and offer solutions particularly to a nuisance member of the public who continually feeds birds in the arcade on Katoomba Street. KB advised this is a public health issue that needs to be addressed and asked if the Police could enforce penalties as signage is not working.
  - **Suggestions for a 'No Stopping' sign to be placed along the highway at the BP Service Station in Katoomba.** Extremely dangerous as Trucks are stopped directly outside the BP on the GWH causing obstruction of view for motorists trying to exit the BP. MJ will send Tony Mitchel an email regarding this and TM will forward to Shane Kerr (Springwood Police Station) for further review.
  - **Albion Street Intersection** - It was suggested that flashing lights on approach to this intersection may be required similar to Springwood (approaching Hawkesbury Road on the GWH) Trucks approaching this intersection may not slow in time and it is a potential danger to motorists turning at this intersection – MJ will forward an email to TM addressing this.
  - **Abandoned vehicles** - It was asked who is responsible for removing abandoned vehicles from public roads. TM advised that Council are responsible however police often will contact BM Council requesting removal of vehicles. MJ will email TM to gain clarification on this process.
  - **MJ asked about the crime rates in Katoomba (ie. drugs, domestic violence etc).** TM mentioned that on average there are about 100 incidents per month which are quite low numbers compared to an

average of 1,000 incidents for the Nepean Area. TM indicated that alcohol is the biggest issue in the mountains however this was also quite low compared to other areas around Sydney. TM advised that there is a women's refuge in the mountains and that police can refer women to this refuge if required.

- **More police presence was encouraged**

## **8. Winter Magic**

- MJ gave an overview of the upcoming Winter Magic event on 27<sup>th</sup> August. A group from Springwood (music promoters) were given a grant of \$250,000 to run the festival for two years.
- Chamber members & retailers voiced concern that this event was no longer of benefit to the retailers and of no advantage for tourists as the structure of the event had changed.
- It was suggested that the organisers of the Winter Magic Revival not use the 'Winter Magic' name as this event represents a music festival not the true Winter Magic Festival.
- MJ explained that the current organisers of the event applied for the grant as no other party wanted to take on the Winter Magic event due to the amount of work, lack of funding and issues with traffic management in previous years. It was mentioned that the RFS no longer want to volunteer assistance for traffic management at this event.
- LF suggested the Chamber organise a new Winter Magic committee for future events.

## **9. Treeline Lurline Update**

- A submission for the full grant (\$28 million) has now been submitted to the state government.
- KB felt the submission was not thorough enough however it was submitted for the full amount and will await notification of whether it is successful.
- The Treeline Lurline website is now live
- KB was pleased to advise that the community energy and support for the project is remarkable with North Katoomba Kids involved in the project with songs and members of the community engaging with creative works and songs.
- It was advised that the wheels are in motion for the first stage of Treeline Lurline with the initial \$4 million to cover work from Waratah Street to Merriwa Street
- MJ advised that the KCCC has the initial funding banked. KCCC will monitor Council's progress on works and release funding as required. KCCC will also be responsible for submitting reports to the Federal Government on works completed.
- MJ thanked KB and Treeline Lurline members for their work and dedication to the project.
- BF suggested a plaque or letter of appreciation be sent to Marie Wood in recognition of her contribution to triggering the Treeline Lurline project. This was supported by MJ and will be arranged.

## **10. Blue Mountains Writers Festival**

- Veechi Stuart and Jennifer Scott gave members an overview of the upcoming Blue Mountains Writers Festival, which started as a satellite event of the Sydney Writers Festival and since 2019 has its own identity and following.
- This BM Writers Festival in the Blue Mountains will be held 21 – 23 October 2022.

- The festival welcomes writers from all over Australia and has around 6 writers on site at any one time.
- The festival received funding from the Bushfire Recovery program and there are plans to make this year's festival even bigger with the expectation of 1000 people per day.
- The festival will be held at the Carrington Hotel and other venues around Katoomba including the Cultural centre, Avalon, Scenic World and Baroque Room.
- ABC Radio team will live broadcast with Richard Glover broadcasting on Friday evening. The festival will also include a performance by Nardi Simpson.

#### **11. New retail brochure – Carrington**

- Briefly discussed. LF to give Di details of which retailers to be included in the brochure.

#### **12. General Business**

- The upcoming Leura Fair will be a small version of Winter Magic with Hands Heart & Feet performing. Applications for stall holders are still open and anyone interested can visit the Leura Village website: [www.leuravillage.com.au](http://www.leuravillage.com.au) for details
- MJ introduced Kelly Walls from The Bootlegger Bar a new venue on Bathurst Road - known for Smoked Meats, Whiskey & Gin
- It was discussed that the Raine & Horn Commercial Building roof collapsed and is unsafe with a risk of Asbestos. MJ to forward an email to Blue Mountains Council to address this issue.
- KS advised members the Katoomba Master Plan is underway however there is a lot of work to be done.
- It was suggested that the bottom of Katoomba Street be closed off once a month to allow for Music / Stalls and potentially make this part of the overall Katoomba Master Plan.
- KS advised member of a request to council for additional seating which was rejected as BMCC believes there is adequate seating on Katoomba Street.
- It was discussed that additional public toilets are needed in Katoomba, and this should also be included in the Master Plan particularly as the Civic Centre toilets will not be available to the Public.
- MJ addressed members of the KCCC to have more input into how the Chamber & meetings should run. It was requested that members of the Chamber take lead on the meetings and overall running of the Chamber as Mark would like to step down giving others the opportunity of more involvement.
- MJ advised that whilst he would like to give members more opportunity to steer the Chamber, he is still tied to the Treeline Lurline Project so would not be leaving the Chamber however this presents an opportunity for other members to become more directly involved in the running of Katoomba Chamber.

Meeting concluded: 8:00pm

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**Next Meeting:** September 8th (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, Carrington Hotel - 6.15pm