



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

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

The next KCCC meeting will be held on Thursday the 13th May 2021

Meeting commenced at 6.21 pm

MJ – Introduced Sarah Richards (Hawkesbury Councillor) & Jo Bromelow (Blaxland Chamber)

1. Attendance & Apologies – 8th April 2021

Present: Mark Jarvis (MJ); Juliet Green (JG); Greg Hansen (GH); Jo Bromelow (JB); Sarah Richards (SR); Wendy Craig (WC); Lynne Curan (LC); Charlie Brown (CBr); Margaret Brown (MB); Bruce Cash (BC); Bruce Ferrier (BF); Kevin Schreiber (KS); Carole Box (CB); Harry Box (HB); Helen Jones (HJ); Kerry Brown (KB); Lui Friscioni (LF); Ray Robinson (RR); Bob Kemnitz (BK); Patricia Lane-Gonzales (PLG); Jane Lambert (JL);

Apologies: David Hodgekiss (DH); Hugh Jones (HJ); Deb Campbell (DC); Pam Seaborn (PS); Peter Carroll (PC); Damien Beaumont (DB); Jennifer Scott (JS);

2. Minutes of Meeting – 11th March 2021

Acceptance proposed - CK; seconded - MB; motion carried
Matters arising: murals & Rotary

3. Correspondence – MJ

None

4. Treasurers Report – DH

Expenses: RIS Insurance – \$681.25; Fair Trading - \$84; Mural expenses – \$1674.30; Nectar Garden Centre – \$276;
Income: \$1050 from Bendigo Bank for all costs incurred for Treeline Lurline;
Membership Fees Received: Katoomba Taxis - \$100
Net decrease: \$1565.55
BALANCE: \$ 8228.58

Acceptance proposed - BF; seconded - CK; motion carried

5. Katoomba Street - Murals

MJ – passed around images of murals. MJ has spoken to Wendy Tsai – they are looking fantastic - will really be quite something once finished. We have a excellent painter here at the Carrington – he is going to paint the wall before the murals are installed. Completion is at least a month away.

6. Katoomba Street – Rotary 100 Year Anniversary

MJ - to commemorate the Rotary 100 Year Anniversary Phil Hammon suggested buying a plant – we think perhaps putting a banner over the clock might be a better idea.

MB – the clock was originally put there by Rotary in the 1950's – why don't they do it up and put their logo around it?

CB – it would look fabulous.

MJ – that’s the sort of thing we would like to do.

LF – mentioned doing a banner

MJ – it’s much more likely for Rotary to do something like that as they put it there originally.

MJ – the little bit of decoration that we do at Christmas makes the clock arch look a lot better - much more could be done to it.

BF – weren’t there big problems with power a few years ago – ie. people turning it off?

MJ – this kind of thing seems to happen with new things in this town until the novelty wears off. Will run the clock idea past Phil.

7. CCTV Update – MJ

MJ – getting closer to receiving the money — it’s definitely coming – just have to get past the bureaucracy.

8. Treeline Lurline Update – MJ

MJ – progress hasn’t changed much – the application that Kerry & I put in is 200 pages – it will be a real circuit breaker for Katoomba – we are pushing it as much as we can – it will change the whole look & perception of Katoomba. Kerry hasn’t been thanked enough for the work that she did on it – it is a phenomenal application.

KB – had a meeting with the working group – wanted to keep people engaged with it – important that the people in Lurline Street are involved – the Facebook page helps with this. Thought we’d do a small event in Hinkler Park – local people doing performances – called Wendy at Council and looked online at the application for the event – there are a lot of hurdles due to Covid and other things. We want to keep it very local – not a tourist event – hoping to hold it on National Tree Day (1st Aug) – have to do it through the Chamber – Bendigo Bank will give up to \$25,000 – the Chamber will do the public liability. Is the chamber happy with this?

MJ /KB – put forward a motion to auspice the event – BF– all in favour – yes!

MJ – want to keep the momentum – having events keep people aware that we are still very keen to keep thing going.

9. Shop Small – Sarah Richards (serving councilor on Hawkesbury Council)

MJ – retail is doing it tough at the moment – Gemglow and other shops are closing – a lot of what we are about is improving our street – this is a tourist town – we are striving to undo years & years of neglect in this town. A lot of the thinking is that Leura is the tourist town and we are the service town. When I heard about the wonderful ideas that Sarah has come up with I had to invite her here tonight.

SR – handed out ‘Shop Small’ flyers to all members. We are in a room today with people that are either in small business or love small business. I am also creator of the successful ‘Back to Bilpin’ campaign – did this after the bushfires – it reached 1million people after a week.

SR- I love social media! Your business needs to be on Facebook – that’s the way to attract people to your business. I love what social media can do for small business. Last year we had the bushfires, floods & Covid so I thought about how I could use my profile to promote small business on social media – I created a ‘group’ rather than a page – with a ‘group’ other people can contribute to this page - ie. SHOP SMALL – it is nothing to do with Amex! I launched it on 20/3/2020 and invited my entire list of Facebook friends – the concept was developed from the panic that people went into after Covid.

Businesses can advertise on SHOP SMALL every day – they are advertising from the comments. I’m the sole admin person and had the privilege of watching these businesses on SHOP SMALL make comments and contacting people. A lot of food shops didn’t have a presence of Facebook – we were able to advertise. I had 3,000 members in the first week – now have about 14,000 members. I don’t do this for money – it’s a platform for business to go to. It’s probably about 70% Hawkesbury businesses at the moment – the rest is Blue Mountains. I come up here a lot and am trying to encourage mountains businesses to join.

The second you put your post on your own page – you then hit the share button on SHOP SMALL, you then have 14,000 members for free and have created yourself a whole new audience – it happen is real time. It’s building a platform to tell your story. The reach of your business can get to 10-15 thousand people just in one post. I’m blown away by how many people have jumped onto this in western Sydney. It’s not just a Facebook group.

SHOP SMALL has become bigger than I originally thought it would be and I now want the Hills & the Blue Mountains to jump on board - it’s free and you can contact me any time if you’d like me to step you through the Facebook page.

Email: <mailto:sarah@shopsmall.net.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/209220260418881/posts/454141065926798/>

MJ – one thing that or piqued my interest was the twilight markets idea.

MJ – you can join simply by hitting the share button on your FB page to SHOP SMALL

MJ – am staggered by what Facebook promotions can do now that we have a staff member who uses Facebook for the Carrington.

MJ – while Sarah is based in the Hawkesbury there should be more interaction between the regions.

JB – what are statistics of the ‘Back to Bilpin’ campaign?

SR – as a councillor I went to visit a lot of businesses and put pictures online – I took a photo of the Bilpin apples sign – used hash tag ‘back to Bilpin’ – the next day there were 4,000K shares overnight – then it hit the national media – it coincided with the bushfires campaigns. It was very successful even though some businesses were run off their feet afterward.

Also, ‘Meet me at the Blue Mountains’ was targeted at the Blue Mountains & Sydney regions and within the first week the reach from one photo was a few hundred thousand people. The wonderful thing about social media is that you can target people. I get very excited about the numbers & the statistics.

MJ – would like to bring some of our shop owners here so that Sarah can take them through how to set it up.

MJ - Jane Lambert, Patricia Lane-Gonzales & Gary Parsons here tonight:

GP – 18 months ago MJ sent me an email saying that Katoomba had been neglected – I had just started in the role. I said we are absolutely committed to Katoomba and to getting things done. We have managed to get a lot of grants – unfortunately with things like the streetscape upgrade we get disruptions – there’s been the rain – haven’t had 2 weeks without rain since November. The rain has significantly delayed things and we’ve looked at ways to get around this. Works should be completed by the end of May – this is not too far away from original timetable. Have had to do it in sections because of the rain and also to keep the contractor busy. Apologies for not communicating this to the businesses. Are doing nightwork now but the aggregate finish is difficult to do at night.

BF – when perfect finishes like that are laid – inevitably something else gets dug up – how do we know that this is a once and for all fix it?

GP – we are at the mercy of the utilities but we do notify them about works.

MJ – can you force them to reinstate things?

GP – yes you can.

GP – the beauty of what we’re using is that it’s easy to clean and to replace.

MJ – just reiterating that we are trying to repair years of neglect and we want it done properly.

GP – Jane and the team did a lot of work of the surfaces beforehand – this was to try to get it done as quickly as we can.

JL – still expecting to have it done by the end of May. We are about to start work on the driveways and the curbing & guttering.

LC – people have asked me about the tiles in front of the Commonwealth Bank building

JL – there are 2 different treatments – one is the aggregate and the other looks smooth but isn’t – it’s part of the design.

KB – there’s no taps on that side that’s being paved so now the KGB need to drag the hoses across the road.

GP – we can probably put one in – Jane will have a look at it tomorrow.

RR – St Hilda’s has a tap that you can use.

MJ – bricks have been hit on the corner of Katoomba St & Waratah St.

GP – these will be part of the upgrade.

LC – the Easter traffic was gridlock – I’ve been here 30 years and never seen it like that.

KS – thanks to Gary for the work he and his team did in getting the road to the Megalong Valley open – claps all around!

GP – regarding Katoomba Falls Kiosk – had a delay with getting the sewerage connected – that’s the last thing that needs to be done – will then look at putting that building out to lease. Suggest that everyone gets down to look at the night lit walk. Want to maintain the heritage and integrity of the building and for it to be complimentary to the night lit walk. The rent will be part of the negotiations - return on investment will be one of the criteria.

MJ – there was a series of 4 of these cafes - Solitary, Gordon Falls - it would be nice if it can be reinstated as a coffee shop again.

MB – when someone leases the kiosk would they be able to put a deck out the back as the views are spectacular?

GP – you would have to out in a DA for that sort of thing.

GP – there is approval to put a larger window in the wall that faces the view.

MJ – referred to Lui and the question about businesses using the footpaths for shop displays – they seem to have had some success in Blackheath.

BC – there was some mention about someone from Council checking the shops in Blackheath over the weekend.

MJ – we don’t actually know what the rules are??

GP – I suggest we get someone here to talk about what you can and can’t do – I will follow this up.

BC – there seems to be a lot of inconsistency and we are getting very frustrated.

PLG – Jane is the project manger for the footpath and I’m doing a weekly walk-through to talk to the businesses about any issues.

PLG – overall we have \$2.5M coming into Katoomba for the footpath and the ‘living lanes project’ (and the Town Centre Arcade). Have 5 laneways – and have had 48 respondents from artists for the work – they are local and western Sydney artists. We’ll shortlist 10 – each one will receive \$1000 to work up a product and they will then be shortlisted to 5. There will be selection panel consisting of Paul Brinkman, Justin Morrison (Toolo) and 3 others – one of which is a local artist. Have people who understand curatorship and understand public art.

MJ – art is not necessarily murals – it can be sculpture and other forms of artwork.

PLG – we want solid pieces of artwork that will last 2 years plus – they need to be durable enough to last the distance.

RR – is the Commonwealth Bank wall on anyone’s radar?

PLG/MJ – no!

RR – who’s responsible for the wall?

PLG – I would assume it’s the bank.

PLG – living lanes artworks are to be installed by September 2021.

PLG – regarding Katoomba Civic Centre revitalization - there are things happening in the background– we are currently seeking services to fit out the old library and there are also some large artworks about to be installed – have also been working on toilet designs.

PLG - regarding Echo Point Plan management – we have to complete a plan to make clear the values & aspirations. associated with that land – it needs to be documented – it’s very important to get it right – we need the community to get involved. We are asking people what is valuable to them – there is a survey on the BMCC website.

PLG - when we do the drop in sessions we are posing the question – would you accept events at Echo Point – things like night markets, opera on the point etc. In discussions with traditional owners things like this may not be permitted.

Have had one drop in session and are doing another one tomorrow. Am not seeing the responses that I would like to see.

The session will be at Echo Point at 1.00 – this is open to anybody including visitors.

MJ – would like to see more events down there – can’t help but feel that a substantial event down there once a year is not too onerous. There are a lot of other things than can be done down there.

PLG – Council is looking at doing a Masterplan for that site – that’s where things can be located and designed. We are talking to everyone from environmental groups to tourism – have to balance the best outcome for that site.

BF – who are the representatives of the traditional owners – no one seems to know who they are and they seems to block many things in the council – I find them to be shadow people. It’s terribly frustrating.

MJ – I know Carol Cooper very well but she’s never used for anything – some of them seem to wield enormous power

PLG - the 2 traditional groups are Dharug & Gundungurra– they are often invited to public meetings but that’s not how they operate. We want to discuss how we can get things across the line that we can accept.

GP – the key is in the dialogue.

MJ – there’s a lot of diplomacy needed.

PLG – the old plan of management which was dated to 2000 did a plan in a void with no mention of traditional owners – we cant’ do it in a void anymore.

PLG – have set up a small projects office at the Civic Centre – we are very happy to have people drop in.

KB – from \$9,000 we have \$6,000 left – is this for the artworks?

PLG – not entirely.

KB – after the consultation I thought people wanted seating and wanted it greener.

PLG – we have something set aside for a co-working place – the remainder of the funds will be used to upgrade the public toilets – also artworks, furniture, addressing the red canopy - and also event opportunities by having power boxes available.

MJ – our recommendation was the greening of the wall.

PLG – not entirely satisfied with the greening of the wall.

MB – will the face of the building be painted?

PLG – not necessarily.

GP – the grant is for an economic opportunity – hence the co-working space. In the DA approval the facade will be upgraded – had a look at the green walls – they need to be continually maintained – that being said, it is a major opportunity to do something with that wall and connect that building with the Cultural Centre. We do have another grant that we can use to do much more.

MJ – the green wall could potentially look bad pretty quickly but so do white bricks.

PLG – looking at large scale planters with substantial trees – now researching lightweight containers on castors that can be moved around when there are events.

KB – I think we need a space where people can sit and where people can be – can’t see why the events idea is so important.

GP – it’s about allowing it to be used for events – so that we can have that ability.

GH – hope that the maintenance for the greening of the wall isn’t going to be a reason for just cutting it out. Referred to the attractiveness of the walled garden on the building on Broadway in Sydney.

GP – it hasn’t been completely discounted – the next grant is talking about a planetary health centre there.

MJ – Wines of the West unlikely to occur in August 2021 as planned due to effect of the fires on the vines. A lot of the winemakers are very busy and won’t be able to man their cellar doors if they do WOW – stock is a genuine problem.

RR – Anglican church – team back working on the bells – have also opened up the church between 12.00 & 2.00pm – have set a up a thing with Anglicare to give people a parcel of food.

Meeting closed at 8.09 pm

Next meeting – Thursday 13th May @ 6.15pm in the Carrington Hotel Library

Signed by President, Mark Jarvis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Jarvis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Minutes by Secretary, Juliet Green

Date: 08/04/2021