



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

NEXT KCCC MEETING - Thursday 10th March 2022

Annual General Meeting – February 10th 2022

Meeting commenced at 6.23 pm

MJ - Welcome to the AGM!

1. Attendance & Apologies

Present: Mark Jarvis (MJ); Juliet Green (JG); David Hodgekiss (DH); Jessica Lawn (JL); Jason Cronshaw (JC); Greg Hansen (GH); Carol Leonard (CLeo); Patrick Leonard (PL); Christine Killinger (CK); Peter Carroll (PC); Lui Friscioni (LF); Louise Florence (LF1); Lynne Curan (LC); Stephanie Moxham (SM); Wendy Craig (WC); Rachel Black (RB); Brush Cash (BC); Kerry Brown (KB); Bruce Ferrier (BF); Craig Leighton (CL); Paul McLaughlin (PMc); Kevin Schreiber (KS);

Apologies: Margaret & Charlie Brown, Pam Seaborn, Kevin Birch, Tom Colless

2. Minutes of Meeting – 10th December 2020 (attached to March 2022 newsletter)

Acceptance proposed – BF; seconded – PC; motion carried

3. President's Report – MJ

MJ - There's a lot to talk about – will pick it up in the ordinary meeting.

4. Treasurers Report as at 30th June 2021 – DH

Income: \$5,966

Expenses: \$19,928

Current Assets (cash at bank): \$6,997

Other Assets (less accumulated depreciation): \$6,440

Total Assets: \$24,228

Retained Earnings: \$38,190

Net Income: -\$13,962

Net Equity: \$24,228

Acceptance proposed - GH; seconded - CK; motion carried

MJ – Commonwealth grant for the CCTV cameras has been outstanding for a while – MJ read email from Dept of Infrastructure – will soon have another **\$19k** in the bank account.

Election of Office Bearers – Conducted by: Kevin Schreiber

PRESIDENT - Nomination: Mark Jarvis – accepted and endorsed –

VICE PRESIDENT - Nomination: Peter Carroll - accepted and endorsed –

SECRETARY - Nomination: Juliet Green - accepted and endorsed –

TREASURER - Nomination: David Hodgekiss- accepted and endorsed –

COMMITTEE MEMBERS – Nominations: Christine Killinger OAM, Lui Friscioni, Louise Florence, Lynne Curan, Deb Cash, Bruce Cash - accepted and endorsed –

- All positions filled and all positions taken by the names (although Juliet will be stepping down as Secretary).

Ordinary Meeting – February 10th 2022

Meeting commenced at 6.36 pm

1. Attendance & Apologies

Present: Mark Jarvis (MJ); Juliet Green (JG); David Hodgekiss (DH); Jessica Lawn (JL); Jason Cronshaw (JC); Greg Hansen (GH); Carol Leonard (CLeo); Patrick Leonard (PL); Christine Killinger (CK); Peter Carroll (PC); Lui Friscioni (LF); Louise Florence (LF1); Lynne Curan (LC); Stephanie Moxham (SM); Wendy Craig (WC); Rachel Black (RB); Brush Cash (BC); Kerry Brown (KB); Bruce Ferrier (BF); Craig Leighton (CL); Paul McLaughlin (PMc); Kevin Schreiber (KS); Kim Barrett (KBarr)

Apologies: Margaret & Charlie Brown, Pam Seaborn, Kevin Birch, Tom Colless

2. Minutes of Meeting – 11th November 2021

Acceptance proposed – CK; seconded – PC; motion carried

3. Correspondence

MJ – letter from the ‘friends of the Paragon’ – the building owner and the previous tenant are still having a disagreement regarding the name – there’s a court case going on – on behalf of the Chamber MJ wrote a letter (see attached).

KB – Not a whole lot protection around the name – the sign that was removed was paid for by community groups – still trying to get it back – the legality around it is a bit grey – the bigger challenge is the removable items that were taken from the original Paragon to the chocolate shop.

MJ – received letter from Council regarding new building on Lurline Street with 10 boarding house rooms and 3 residential flats – this application has been rejected.

PC – there was something about 142 Lurline wanting to build something for homeless people – behind Junction 142

KB – that’s a separate proposal.

4. Treasurers Report – DH

Expenses: Tom Colless (reimbursement trailer rego) - \$190; Wendy Tsai (mural) - \$1000; Stralia Web - \$577.50; Various Christmas Expenses - \$3011.50 (including prizes); Treeline Lurline - \$200;

Income: \$3,500 from Treasury for ‘Small Business Month’ conference

Dividend: \$35 from BB

Membership Fees Received: 0

BALANCE: \$12,168.30

MJ - With the \$19k that’s coming in, the account balance will be about \$30k - which is a healthy balance to have.

Acceptance proposed - KB; seconded - BC; motion carried

**5. Treeline Lurline Update – KB/JL/RB
Jessica (Chair) and Kerry (Secretary)**

KB – Jessica lives in Lurline St and is an arborist. We want to focus on the social & cultural aspect – the sense of place. Tourists are starting to come back to Katoomba – this project is very important for our community. There are a lot of housing commission and elderly people living on Lurline St but there is no seating, few bus stops and no shade. The sense of place it will offer in the future is important.

JL – spoke of the importance of the Treeline Lurline project primarily being for the community - not just the tourists - respite for the elderly and the schoolchildren – she also spoke briefly on the social and cultural benefits, and the ‘sense of place’. She quoted from the BMCC Street tree Masterplan - August 2010 ...

“it is hoped that our community heritage of street tree planting will be enlarged and improved – after all, many trees have a life cycle that encompasses many decades and possibly centuries, and therefore represent a significant and long term investment in the future of the community and the cultural landscape of the city.

It goes on to say: “when a particular tree species becomes strongly associated with a particular town, this ‘signposting’ becomes very powerful and intensifies the sense of place. The cooler climate of the upper mountains leads to enhance Autumn colour in deciduous trees and a heightened sense of the passing of seasons - a key characteristic of the higher elevations. ‘Sense of place’ and town character are important community identifiers and a significant part of the tourist resource, especially in the upper mountains.”

JL – there’s so many important factors that are going to come with this and I’m really proud to be involved - and hope to receive more news on the grant.

KB – Lurline Street has been described as the gateway to Echo Point - there were once trees down there – Council planted them in 1905 – it cost them 20 pounds (plane tress) – they were taken down around 1960. A feasibility study was done by Council - the landscaper said you have to upgrade the whole street & the power needs to go underground. Endeavor offered to do some underground powering. By 2019, after much discussion, nothing has been done.

KB - want to acknowledge Lowell, Jessica, Mark and other people who independently got together in an attempt to get a beautiful avenue from the town centre to Echo Point - now talking about a landmark boulevard. Last year Ron Powell (senior architect BMCC) got involved – as well as many experts & planners - we suddenly had all this pro bono work. The cost will be about \$25m – the trees themselves aren’t the biggest cost. Now waiting on the application approval – the grant won’t cover everything but Bendigo Bank has given us some money – got all of the documentation and Rachel Black now on board to get a website up. The Council worked with us quite closely for a about a year but have since lost a lot of people. David Wardman (fantastic water-colourist) has done a wonderful job with colour diagrams. There’s been so much work over the last 3 years – want to do an event at Hinkler Park but with COVID & rain we have had to push this back – so putting a lot more work into the website to get the word out. Aunty Carol Cooper has also been fantastic – the heritage of the site is so important.

BF – digging up to put everything underground – is this design going to address the issue so that there is ongoing access for whatever may come down the track - so that it doesn’t get dug up again sometime later?

KB – there is going to be state of the art materials used – project management is looking after this and it will probably be done in sections. The services are under the pavement and the trees will be on the street. It will be great for Council as the drainage and infrastructure needs to be upgraded anyway.

JL – there’s no traffic sign on the street – trees will help with ‘traffic calming’ for children & elderly people.

KB – we want people to walk/cycle the street and not drive down – to sit & rest – the business case was around cultural tourism – trying to get people to appreciate the built heritage.

MJ – destination NSW were trying to encourage people to come here & walk the street but there was no shade, water, seats etc – this needs to be the ‘project of excellence’.

KB – also want to acknowledge Councilor Schreiber - he has been involved with this from the beginning.

MJ – want to acknowledge Stephanie as well (who was the secretary).

6. Blue Mountains Hospital – MJ

MJ – Blue Mountains Hospital got front page in this weeks’ Gazette – delighted with the Gazette for the article. A lot of the funding for the hospital comes from the Leura Gardens Festival. Had a public meeting here last Wednesday to discuss the topic “Is Katoomba Hospital Fit for Purpose”. Guests included: Labour MPs Susan Templeman & Trish Doyle, Liberal MLC Shayne Mallard and Liberal candidate for Macquarie Sarah Richards - as well as the three Ward 1 councillors (Labor, Liberal & Greens).

MJ - Peter Collins (now chair of Nepean & BM Local Health District) was also at the meeting – he stressed that Katoomba Hospital needs to be a fully serviced hospital.

After the 1st world war a lot of memorial hospitals were built around Australia – Katoomba is the last one standing. Sarah Richards and Kevin Schreiber did a walk around and were quite shocked to see the state of the hospital. A volunteer PR person will be putting the discussion out around a few media outlets. There were a few politicians in the room but these things tend to get up when they're community driven. This takes away a lot of the politics surrounding it– things are now moving very quickly.

BF – Tom Colless raised the idea of trying to set up a community-funded drive to raise some money – need both sides of politics to tick off support for this. Something such as 'Go Fund Me' – would be good if we were to somehow get something like that going so that we can attract the average person to support.

MJ - crowd funding will not make a dent on the major costs but will a way of getting the community involved.

MJ - it's really a state responsibility - but part of it can be funded by the Federal Government.

BF – Susan Templeman mentioned setting up some group to write in favour of such a thing – what we really need to be able to do was what Peter Collins said – 'we need you as a community to communicate your opinion'.

MJ - these projects, like Treeline Lurline, if they are going to get up are all community driven – you have to make a bit of noise to get this thing going.

CK – the good thing about the meeting was that it was bi-partisan. If people want to put in a little bit of money, it's about ownership.

MJ – Peter Collins wants to get this going and appears very sympathetic to the whole idea.

MJ – in the hospital world we are metropolitan, not regional. It was a really positive meeting and I will keep you updated on this ...

MJ – want people from the Chamber to have an opinion about the Katoomba golf club – would like Kim Barrett to go through the process - and how to be involved. When we first heard about it there was a lot of talk about 'planetary health' - but what is planetary health? We were led to believe that it would be a university campus – which would attract a lot of younger people to the area.

MJ – Katoomba does not have a tier 1 park or a dedicated bike track – this is an opportunity for something like this - or even an aged care facility.

7. Katoomba Masterplan – Kim Barrett (BMCC City Planning Manager)

KBarr – there are 2 parts to the Masterplan at the moment:

Stage 1 - is the biggest - it covers North Katoomba, the town centre, Echo Point and the southern tourism area. At the end of 2020 we asked the community what they thought – there's been a lag because of Covid – have received about 1,000 individual responses and from those there were about 3,000 comments on things that need to be fixed and things that people liked about Katoomba. People don't want Katoomba to be like Leura.

We now have urban work starting and have started a process where we are looking at various options based on what people have told us – such as: Yeaman Bridge, lack of good public places to sit & rest, water capture & water sensitive design. Traffic flow in general beyond Yeaman Bridge is the most the most difficult thing to solve. A lot of the conversations to date have been with Transport for NSW – and the project starts just beyond Katoomba and doesn't include Yeaman Bridge – we are not happy with that - and Council are advocating for a better solution with Transport for NSW. The other key theme is the main street and the upkeep of the facades & buildings in general – Council has no local powers to force owners to make their buildings good – we only can do this if they are heritage – it's very challenging as there are lot's of absentee landlords.

MJ – on the state register there's hardly any buildings that are state listed – the Carrington is one. Have spent a lot of money here – the Paragon could potentially be very valuable if money was spent on it. The Council should have more clout up & down Katoomba Street.

KBarr – just found out that the Paragon have just changed ownership. Am happy to come back and talk about heritage.

KBarr – bottom of Katoomba St/linking into Lurline Street – the work that Treeline Lurline have done is useful - talking about how people move around Katoomba – alternate modes of transport long term – have used the time in lockdown to do a lot of the research. In terms of process & opportunities for public to be involved, we are aiming for May – hope to come back here before then and feed any further info into the exhibition – want to make sure we don't miss anything. It's a long process but the benefit is that we're planning to flag the hospital as a key catalyst site – want to make it a teaching hospital – attract more people – universities could do this (on the golf site). Also, Kingsford Smith Park – great opportunity but very challenging.

Stage 2

KBarr – zombie DA golf course – approval from 80's to 90's for a hotel – still in play and could still be taken up – flaw in the planning system in NSW – once approved it is active forever – have a few 'sleepers' in the mountains and this is one of them – the owner has been trying to look at other options – we are working with them.

KBarr – in terms of university connection, Council have signed memorandum of understanding – not to put a full university there – signed with UTS(sustainable futures), Monash and a few others. They're MOU partners –

working on a masterplan for the site – that is through a lens of ‘planetary health’ – this concept started with the Ruckerfeller – it’s a fundamental connection between human health and the health of the planet. Universities were interested – the Masterplan will try to develop this idea – on the site, there could also be a conference centre – there are great opportunities for flexibility – having part of it as a park is a challenge but it’s important that the park is still there for the community. It’s a 40-hectare site – needs to be for other opportunities as well as perhaps a park. Want to hear from the community – working towards April/May for this – the important thing about the 2 stages is that they work together. Will be going out to the community and have consultations on the site – Covid has held this up. Once we have this we will look at the feedback and come back to the community with the designs.

MJ – even things like a bike track are, in itself, a part of planetary health - all the things we are talking about could potentially co-exist.

KBarr – don’t want to build something that becomes obsolete really quickly – and want something that the community can enjoy.

BF – prime residential land – why there, because of the access challenge?

KBarr – we need a holistic solution that keeps at least a portion of cars outside the town centre – then perhaps have a sustainable electric hop-on hop-off thing that could pick you up and take you to your destination and then back to your car. The key thing with the golf course is deciding whether we have multiple access sites as it is so big.

MJ – a lot of people concerned about the timing of things.

BF – good to see that it’s been so seriously chewed over – there’s no simple solution

KBarr - the ‘chewing’ is quite exhausting and at some point we have to make a call.

CK – is the clubhouse privately owned?

KBarr – Council owns it - and it has owned the golf course for a long time. National Parks have gone into the top level of the clubhouse.

MJ – Wines of the West – have sent out a letter to a lot of the wineries – the dates for this year are the 20th & 21st August – have had a positive response.

MJ - if we have learnt anything, Lady Luck, Wines of the West, Roaring 20’s – various events that people can lock into really make a difference our town – because of Covid haven’t done any of this and it’s very quiet. If we ever had a doubt about these things, it’s been proven that it does bring people into the town. Have been contacted by Greg regarding winter Magic – he will be at the next meeting.

MJ – there was talk about having 2 Wines of the West per year to suit the weather & wine – can make good money from this – hopefully will be able to do it twice a year going forward.

BC – as a separate event can we look at local brewers & distillers?

MJ – has been talk about them having their own festival – perhaps a separate event along the lines of WOW.

8. Murals – MJ/WT

MJ – down to the last 3 boards – they look spectacular – unfortunately Wendy hasn’t been well, but they’ll be up soon.

9. Other Business

PC – spoke about the importance of the minutes of the meetings – and thanked Juliet for her contribution over the last 6 years.

MJ –membership – will kick off again from 1st July this year to keep it in line with the financial year.

Meeting closed at 8.04 pm

Next meeting - Thursday 10th March 2022 @ 6.15 pm, Carrington Hotel Library

Signed by President, Mark Jarvis



Minutes by Secretary, Juliet Green

Date: 10/02/22