



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

ALL MEETINGS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Meeting commenced at 6.16 pm

1. Attendance & Apologies – 12th March 2020

Present: Juliet Green (JG); Peter Carroll (PC); Christine Killinger (CK); Lui Friscioni (LF); Patricia Lane-Gonzalez (PG); Ron Green (RG); Robin Catchlove (RC); Carole Box (CB); Harry Box (HB); Shannon Decker (SD); Bruce Cash (BC); Ray Robinson (RR); Helen Jones (HJ); Kerry Brown (KB); Jennifer Scott (JS);

Apologies: Mark Jarvis (MJ); Margaret Brown (MB); Charlie Brown (CB); David Hodgekiss (DH); Matthew Bohman; Naomi Parry (NP); Bruce Ferrier (BF);

PC – Fees are due from 1st October 2019 – invoices have been sent out but we will send reminders; also a reminder that if you'd like to be part of the KCCC business directory please contact Juliet as you are entitled to a complimentary membership to the NSW Chamber if you join the KCCC.

PC – we are having a hard time at the moment with so many set backs – ie. bushfires & floods – the consequence is that tourists just don't come. Now there's the Coronavirus – still in the early stages but we have to brace ourselves for tougher times. There are some positive things – firstly, the fires are out which is the first time in about 5 months; we had a great Wines of the West - with records sales; what is important is working together to attract tourists to the Blue Mountains.

There's a square dancing convention coming up in April, which will be a big help to the community. The Federal Government, just this afternoon announced a \$17 billion stimulus package. The BMCC are making various efforts to help small businesses; Winter Magic is coming up soon which brings tens of thousands of people to Katoomba; there's also Sculpture at Scenic World, which bring a lot of people to the mountains. The Mayoral Reference Group has had a very useful and positive impact in the community – it's a great way for people to raise their thoughts and ideas to the Council. LPG – the Mayoral Reference Group is for the presidents of Chambers of Commerce to pass information on the Council. PC – re. Bilpin area – the 'Come to the Blue Mountains' idea has had a lot of hits on Facebook, which is helping to bring people here.

PC – factories are now starting to open again in China which will help as some businesses haven't been able to get products from there.

PC – on the subject of Coronavirus, there are certain things that we should get used to doing – no more kissing people or shaking hands – and the importance of washing hands properly with soap & water. Apparently 17% of young people never wash their hands after going to the toilet. It's essential that you wash your hands and don't get too close to people.

2. Minutes of Meeting – 13th February 2020

Acceptance proposed – CK; seconded – LF; motion carried

Matters arising: unfortunately Deb Cash didn't get to the Dare disability event; new KCCC vests have not been purchased yet; letter was sent to the ABC praising Simon Marnie and the 'Road to Recovery' series - via an online form by Juliet;

KB – apparently many businesses have been having difficulty getting rent relief.

PC – Angus Olsen has done some initial drafts of some maps and is continuing to develop them further than just the main street.

3. Correspondence – PC

4. Treasurers Report – DH

Expenses: RIS insurance - \$668.70; JCAR (CCTV camera repairs) - \$571.23

Income: 0

Membership Fees Received: 0

BALANCE: \$8,189.18

Acceptance proposed - CK; seconded - LF; motion carried

* The Wines of the West money is yet to be fully calculated.

5. Footpath Usage – LF

PC – I have a number of pictures from my travels of beautiful shops from around the world – with hanging baskets etc.

LF – have written a letter to Council about some aspects of footpath usage – there's no distinction between cafes and retailers – and as far I know they pay the same fees for footpath usage. Retailers should be charged less. When Council announced waiving fees because of bushfires this didn't apply to me as a retailer. There's only 2 retailers in Katoomba with permits – that's the 2 florists. Have asked Council to look at the cost. Also with cafes and tables outside, that vastly increases their capacity – and my display was no bigger than an A-frame, which I'm entitled to do. Katoomba Street is covered with A-frames – I think businesses should be given the opportunity to use other things other than A-frames. We don't want Katoomba Street looking like a bizarre. Am currently waiting for a response from Council.

PC – it's certainly important to keep the thoroughfare open.

LF – apparently Bruce from Beautiful Bags sent an email along similar lines prior to me.

PLG – I do support you – my understanding is that the fee is the same for outdoor dining and shops. They have been waiving fees for cafes that have previously paid them. We have advocated that this is an issue. Your letter has gone to the regulatory side – I am interested to hear the outcome.

LF – every time we stick our nose out the door we seem to get a letter – am wondering what triggers this response from Council.

PLG – through the Mayoral Reference Group we want to get info regarding these issues.

BC – on the point of waivers, is it just restaurants and cafes?

PLG – no, it's whoever has paid fees will be waived for the next 6 months.

PC – it would be nice if we could find a way to encourage people to make their shop look more attractive.

PC – perhaps Mark could follow this up at the next Mayoral Reference Group meeting.

KB – I think the Chamber should also write a letter – the more letters that come in will help.

PC – before we do this we will wait for a response from Council.

BC – the point that I raised was whether we be allowed to put out a clothing rack or table with a waiver of the cost in the lead up to Winter Magic – that letter was sent 6 weeks ago and I didn't even get an acknowledgement.

6. Community Event 21st March, Civic Place - PLG

PLG – here to talk about the Katoomba Civic Centre arcade – having a community engagement day on Saturday 21st March – there will be musicians – will be demonstrating what the area could be used for – as well as getting feedback from people about what they would like to see done in that area as it's a community space. Via MJ – will send an invitation to attend.

PLG – also would like to mention the 4 training sessions scheduled for the end of March – they are:

Boost with Facebook; Growing Your Business; Building Your Digital Footprint; Doing Business with Council – flyers available here tonight.

NB. Workshop details have changed so follow the BMCC link for current details:

<https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/economic-development/training-opportunities>

PLG – had a meeting with people around youth issues in early March – not only spoke about the concerns in Carrington Place but also the Civic Arcade – there were representatives from youth centres, schools and others. We will be working with police to do a community safety audit to see what works and what doesn't. Need to provide more surveillance – there are young people drinking etc. until the early hours of the morning. One of the key things that came out of this was that the police that were at the meeting know who those young people are - they can now start to lock in with youth support groups.

PC – very encouraging to hear about the positive things that Council is doing.

7. Shannon Decker – 'The Source'

SD – I am director and owner of landscape business (Grow & Zen) and also own the Source Bulk Foods, located on the upper part of the Town Centre Arcade. The ethos of our business is zero waste. My wife operates the shop and I operate the construction company. The shop is an old fashioned shopping style – ie. paper bags & glass jars. We have many different types of foods for all tastes - organic, vegan, sugar free etc. - different products that you just don't find in a

general store – and nothing wrapped in plastics. Had meeting recently regarding the Town Centre Arcade about what could be done with the area. With the help of my landscape business I am interested in what can we do to beautify this place – that’s why the meeting on 21st March will be good - knowing what people would like to do to activate the space. There’s been no graffiti, which is good. I have purchased a steam weeding machine – would like to work more with Council and around schools to manage weeds – need to manage this sustainably and in an environmentally friendly way. This machine also sanitizes play equipment. Would like to donate our time to the KGB to demonstrate how this machine works to eliminate some of the weeds in the gardens around town.

PC – how does your bulk food business differ from the Co-Op?

SD – we are dry products only which are in a lot of bulk tubs – it’s the whole zero waste ethos. Have a huge variety.

KB – re. the glyphosate issue – it’s probably 18 months since Council promised to reduce using glyphosate – they are now starting this. The KGB use hand weeding but there’s a limit to what we can do. You need to talk to Dan Long and look at steam cleaning – you’ll be cleaning the street at the same time. Don’t know why Council have thought that this wouldn’t work but you need to talk to Dan about this.

SD – is there a no spray radius that you can let Council know about – is there a list that you can put your name to?

KB – the Unions have also gotten onto this which is good - and their idea is that there could be a financial risk – this is something that Council are now thinking about.

KB – give Council an alternative and they might consider it.

8. Naomi Parry – Winter Magic 2020 – Saturday 20th June 2020

PC –there’s no more street parade but the new format last year turned out to be very successful. The Winter Magic this year will be along the same lines and is a great way of attracting people to the Blue Mountains.

9. Lane Reactivation – KB

KB – there are many grants currently available – had a meeting with MJ and others. Justin (from Toolo), who is a brilliant grant writer, suggested that we put in an application to get a grant to beautify our lanes and make them places that encourage visitors to Katoomba to walk the lanes. Justin said he was going to draft an application and Victor (GalleryONE188) was going to help as well. This comes back to the idea of beautifying Katoomba.

PC – I understand that this is money coming from the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grant – the proposed budget was \$300K – how much of this are we going for?

KB – will ask for \$300k and if we get \$50k we’ll just accept that and see what we can do.

PLG – re. the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grant – it’s all been very quick and it must be Council that applies – hence Justin has come to Council with the idea. Council are excited to help Justin with that grant – there is also a possible grant for an arts & lights installation for Winter Magic. Council are currently working on some big grants and I am working on the smaller \$30k grants like ones for the Great Train Weekend; Rhododendron Gardens etc. - there should be quite a few success but there are a number going though now.

Other Matters:

PC – dates for the diary in the KCCC Newsletter – if you can get people to become involved in things that are going in our area it all helps with boosting business.

PLG – there is currently a small business conference being held at the Fairmont – Council has sponsored one that is about building reliance – it’s \$45 if you want to attend.

LF – congratulations to Katoomba for being listed as one of the top ten places to visit by the online travel site Wotif.

Meeting closed at 7.29 pm

Next meeting - Thursday 9th April @ 6.15pm in the Carrington Hotel Library (now cancelled due to Coronavirus)

Signed by President, Mark Jarvis



Minutes by Secretary, Juliet Green

Date: 12/3/20