



We would like to extend a welcome to Katoomba residents and business people who would like to come along and participate 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 Vanessa Crump at [info@katoombachamber.com](mailto:info@katoombachamber.com).

Annual Subscription fees for membership of the Katoomba Chamber of Commerce & Community are just \$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](http://www.katoombachamber.com) CittaSlow Katoomba Blue Mountains [www.cittaslow.org.au](http://www.cittaslow.org.au)

### **NEXT MEETING – 9th May 2013**

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**Ordinary Meeting** opened at 6.18pm, at The Library, Carrington Hotel, Katoomba.

#### **1. Attendance and Apologies**

Present: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Anna Katrina McClintock (AM), Carole Box (CB), Harry Box (HB), Michael Brischetto (MB), Belle Buttrose (BB), Peter Carroll (PNC), Paul Cashel (PC), Tom Colless (TC), Vanessa Crump (VC), Lynne Curan (LC), Anton Curnow (AC), Christine Davidson (CD), Anne Elliott (AE), Iain Everington (IE), Bruce Ferrier (BF), Guy Fordy (GF), Juliet Green (JG), Eric Hall (EH), Malu Hall (MH), Yvonne Hellmers (YH), Mark Jarvis (MJ), Robyn McAdam (RM), Gren Olsen (GO), Robyn Parker (RP), Zita Robinson (ZR), Lyn Rodda (LR), Nerolie Stodart (NS), Bill Swan (WS), Nick Varkas (NV), Maree Wood (MW), Roxanne Weaver (RW), Carl Salat (CS), Rhys Jones (RJ), Taryn Jackson (TJ), Shane Wainwright (SW), Stephen Harris (SH), Nicola Taylor (NT), Saskia Everingham (SE), Maria Toscan (MT).

#### Apologies:

Stephen Crump, Janet Cahill, Robert Stock, Jason Grey, Christine Killinger, Larry Buttrose, Daniel Myles.

#### **2. Minutes from the previous ordinary meeting March 14<sup>th</sup> 2013**

No amendments. Moved accepted (BF), seconded (BB).

Other matters arising from the previous minutes will be covered below.

#### **3. Correspondence**

Email from BMCC – Kingsford Smith plan on display till 1/5.

Email forwarded by PC regarding bushfire emergency meeting points – *Attached in Appendix 1.*

#### **4. Treasurer's Report – Bill Swan**

Cheque from Eric and Malu Hall towards the Bicentennial Coins was received, plus some membership

fees.

Balance \$5515.30.

## 5. **Pop Up Shops – Saskia Everingham**

We have lost our critical mass of shops and don't want Katoomba to become a ghost town. Although a great idea, pop up shops are not a long term solution. They are also dependent upon the landlord cooperating.

MJ said we will continue to approach landlords, but we will give them a chance to do something before naming and shaming.

Mandy Schone-Salter is a photographer and SE is exhibition coordinator at Braemar Gallery. Both have connections in the art world and have set up a pop up shop brokerage called *Mind the Gap*.

This concept lowers barriers to try out small businesses ideas, draws tourists to main street, and helps build a unique BM brand. The concept is not just about shops, the aim is to activate the whole CBD using spaces other than shops, such as Civic Square, laneways and courtyards. SE knows artists have a lot of ideas but there are barriers to seeing ideas come to practice.

Four weeks ago there was *Renew Australia* conference in Newcastle. Marcus Westbury started Renew Newcastle in 2008 and the program has now been rolled out across Australia. This is not just an Australian problem and High Streets around the world are suffering the same issues. Pop up shops generate interest and have had a big impact on communities. They increase the number of people in the street, reconnect people with their CBD. As foot traffic increases, security improves, and there is less anti-social behaviour, less vandalism, shops more likely to lease, and commerce is brought back. More information is available at <http://renewnewcastle.org>.

There are direct benefits to the property owner – there is very little in the way of investment for the owner, but substantial benefits. Some of the uses have morphed into rent paying businesses.

A pop up shop has a 30 day rolling licence, rather than a lease. There is no fixed term, but there must be 30 days' notice to vacate. Rent is about \$50 a week. The property must be left in the same or better condition. Property owners get to approve the use of the space and the clustering of similar businesses strengthens them all.

In Katoomba, the plan is not just to involve artists; there are a variety of communities – climbing, cyclists – which might like a shop front or space. SE will start with the artists as she knows this community. Artists can make product, or run workshops in the spaces and also have a shop.

SE would like to use the knowledge, contacts and experience of the KCCC and MJ has agreed to auspice it, otherwise insurance could be a problem.

Rhys Jones represents the Society of Mountains Artists. He explained that they have wanted to use a pop up and have tried to use a large space but problems arose. RJ felt there was a lack of response from BMCC. RJ has worked with Parramatta Council and found them very supportive.

MB pointed out that Jacqueline Brinkman is briefing the BMCC about how to support this via the Economic Enterprise and momentum is building to at least have the shops owned by BMCC filled. The business and arts community need to work together to make it happen – it is not Council's role.

YH pointed out that Lis Bastian and Lyn Mountain-Stevens are now at BMCC and are right behind the idea. PC there was an initial reluctance in BMCC, but the property manager is now on board and two shops being considered.

Part of the barriers is that local real estate needs to be educated about it. Landlords need to come to the party out of civic pride; this is where the KCCC can help.

MJ will invite the local real estate agents to the next meeting as they should be part of this forum and this should help to keep the pressure on.

#### **6. Landlord register/building maintenance – Mark Jarvis**

MJ has been talking with building owners, trying to get them to our meetings. Still trying to get the details of building owners from the local real estate agents but there are privacy issues to overcome.

#### **7. Heritage Façade Restorations – Paul Cashel**

The Paragon Café has only had a local government listing, and is not on any State or Federal registers. The building owner is not fully on board, but BMCC going to proceed with a State Heritage application regardless.

BMCC has applied for funding through Regional Development Australia Funds and have made it to the second round. The application is for \$5000000 from BMCC to be matched by various building owners. The plan is called *Connecting Katoomba*, and applies to restoring and painting facades. BMCC is also trying to get Dulux on board with a 50/50 split for paint costs. Yeomans Bridge and the roundabout needed the southern end of Katoomba Street are also included. The proposal was submitted about a week ago. There is also an application in for the Greater Blue Mountains Bicycle Trail.

Roundabout lights – the engineering report is now approved.

#### **8. Bicentenary Update – Tom Colless/Bruce Ferrier**

The program for the Bicentenary commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May is now available. The ‘explorers’ will be in Katoomba on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

The flyover will leave Penrith at 11am and the planes will be overhead until about 12.30 and some will even circle the Carrington chimney. There will be a commentary available to download and listen to.

On the same day there will be a balloon event in Melrose Park. Three hot air balloons will be available for rides, from 6.40am until 9am. North Katoomba PS will perform, and the Neighbourhood Centre will be involved.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May there will be a triple launch at the Cultural Centre including *1813 - A tale that grew in the telling* launched by Wendy Blaxland, *Bicentenary Limited Edition of Local Heroes - An insider's guide to the Blue Mountains* launched by the mayor and *Holey Dollar Bicentenary Commemorative Coin* launched by Louise Markus.

On 4<sup>th</sup> May the Commemorative Ball will be held at the Fairmont. This is a fundraiser as TC and Phil Hammon should not have to bank roll the whole event.

The barrack van, in which the convicts were placed at night, will have period costumes for people to wear and have photos taken as a fundraiser. The explorer busts have been completed at a cost of \$40

000.

The NSW Historical Society is having a seminar in the Cultural Centre on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

5000 Holey Dollars have been manufactured so far, 15000 need to be produced in order to ensure each school child in the mountains receives one. Although all the Katoomba schools have been subscribed, there are still 21 of the 28 schools available. The minimum contribution is \$500.

1813 decals are still available at the Bendigo Bank and were given out at the meeting.

#### **9. Katoomba Theatre Co. Update – Belle Buttrose**

Larry Buttrose has written a comedy sketch which the KTC will perform at the Bicentennial Ball.

BB thanked all for the support of the shows in the *Turning Leaf* series of play readings.

The tender documents are out. The second stage of the project is that the BMCC will make the building good by about November, and the third stage will be for the KTC to do the interior fit out (seating, lights, staging, sound, box office and disabled toilets). The budget is about \$250 000. The plan is to open in early 2014.

The Youth Theatre program will be launched at the Cultural Centre by Ita Buttrose on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August after a fundraising dinner at the Carrington on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **10. Katoomba Update**

BB raised her concerns about how Leura seems to be full of people coming off the coaches, for which there is adequate parking in Megalong St. Everything conspires against people coming to Katoomba. There is still no tourist information centre and inadequate coach parking facilities.

Would it be possible to lobby for coach parking outside the Cultural Centre and the Telstra building?

MJ agreed that there are structural problems in Katoomba and expressed his frustration at how little has changed in 10 years. There may be parking opportunities as part of the Woollies development, although this is not finalised yet. We need to keep putting pressure on.

AE raised the possibility of the café at the Cultural Centre being turned into an information centre. The muted signage to the Cultural Centre was raised as a concern.

PC said that Graham Green is the person to talk to at BMCC. The traffic study is underway and coach parking is a part of it.

**Meeting closed 8.05 pm**

**Next meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 6.15pm – Carrington Library - all welcome.**

Signed by President Mark Jarvis ..... Date .....

Minutes by Vanessa Crump, Secretary

*Appendix 1*

**From:** Peter Belshaw  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 February 2013 5:05 PM  
**To:** Paul Cashel  
**Subject:** RE: Glenbrook Chamber of Commerce Meeting 6 Feb, 2013

Paul,

Regarding evacuations:

- Evacuation in any situation (bushfire, chemical spill, major structural fire etc) is the statutory responsibility of the Police. Police will always be guided by advice from the agency in charge of the emergency, which in the case of bush fires is the Rural Fire Service. Council is not involved in the evacuation process other than providing halls or other buildings that could be used to house displaced people.
- Because we don't know where the next emergency will occur or what the nature of the event will be, there are not specific evacuations centres for given areas. For example, if a severe bushfire is burning in the Katoomba area, a specific site may not be suitable and another location well away from the threat will need to be chosen. The Police and Dept of Family and Community Services will have a list of options for where evacuation centres can be established, but the actual location for a particular emergency is determined in a dynamic way in response to many factors. Evacuation plans are therefore generic and focus on process rather than being prescriptive.
- If people self relocate during an emergency event, where they go is their choice. If people are directed to leave by the Police or a supporting agency then they will be given explicit instructions on where to go at that time.
- In the case of bushfires, the Rural Fire Service have identified places of last resort shelter (neighbourhood safer places) where residents can escape the immediate effects of a bushfire if they cannot implement their Bush Fire Survival Plan. These places of last resort are not evacuation centres, may be a park or other open space, and emergency services may not be present to offer assistance. The location of these places is published on the RFS website ([www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)).

Feel free to give me a call if any of this requires clarification.

Regards,

**Peter Belshaw** | Bushfire Management Officer | t 02 4780 5741 | m 0414 195 741 | e [pbelshaw@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pbelshaw@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)