



# Montville Chamber of Commerce Inc.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 5.30pm

**Venue:** Montville Bar & Grill

### **Attendance:**

**Members:** Anton Kardash, Shiralee Cooper, Mark Connolly, Allan & Tina Rhode, Bevan Christensen, Chris & Anne Wells, Edi Heide & Barbara Lamont, Merlin Coughlin, Paula Phillips, Pam Maegdefrau, Ryan Purcell, Sarah Hallam, Willy & Walter Van Alphen, Carol & Courtney Elms

**Guests:** Andrew Powell, Melanie-Lee Anderson, Phillip and Margaret Casey, Tina Cooper, Tony and Marion Cooper, Wolfgang Engel.

**Apologies:** Bill Thompson, Charlie & Julie Bevan, Deborah Hammond, Jenny McKay, Naomi Ellis

**Welcome:** Anton opened the meeting at 5:30pm and welcomed Melanie-Lee as the new Administration Officer.

### **Host Members to introduce visitors:**

The floor was opened for Members to introduce themselves and their guests.

### **Motion to change the Financial Year:**

‘That the current Financial Year, ending September, be aligned with the end of the standard Financial Year, being end of June.’

**Moved:** Anton Kardash

**Seconded:** Edi Heide

**For:** 13

**Against:** Nil

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Minutes of previous Meeting:**

Willy Van-Alphen raised concerns that the previous minutes were not amended to include a topic that she had commented on. From this meeting onwards, proper process will be followed to ensure this does not happen in future. The Minutes from the previous Meeting were accepted.

### **Discussion on Montville Main Street and Russell Park concerns:**

Two letters have been received – one from Greg and Gayle Jones of Fudgyboombahs regarding parking in Montville Main Street. Anton read the letter out aloud to the meeting. The letter raised the issue of the space currently closed off to the public in Russell Park that could be utilised as a parking area, as it was in the past.

The second letter was from Allan and Norelle Weight at the NewsXpress, Montville Village. Anton read their letter that brought attention to the fact that employees are taking parking spaces in the Main St, which means that the public are not able to use these spaces.

Anton explained that he had spoke to the Mayor last night about the parking issues being raised, the Mayor Mark Jamieson said that there was no intention to implement timed meter parking in the Main Street of Montville. The Mayor will provide the relevant names of employees in Council for the matter to be discussed further.

Allan Rhode was asked to talk about the plans discussed between the Council and Montville Village Association for the future of Russell Park. This liaison aims to specifically address plans and delegation of finances for Russell Park. There was consensus within the group to work together with other associations to decide what will be done with the finances that have been allocated and to specify the details of the plans.

The meeting discussed possible solutions to these parking problems and the use of Russell Park. The issue is two-pronged, so solutions should reflect this.

Internal approaches regarding employees taking Main Street parks include timed parking; letters and awareness campaigns to local businesses; and the use of Russell Park for long term parking. Merlin suggested a Survey Monkey to collate a wider-scope of opinions on this before a final decision is made.

**Action:** The floor was asked to contribute their thoughts on the development of a survey through Survey Monkey, asking for opinions on each possible solution, distributed to the wider community so that data can be collated and taken to the Council for action. It was agreed that this was the appropriate action to take.

Rubbish Bins, lighting and other issues will be discussed and addressed with Montville Village Association before any further discussions or possible actions are taken on these.

#### **Updates:**

- **A Village Wedding Expo** - Merlin spoke on progress for the upcoming Wedding Expo.
  - They are currently pushing for registrations, especially from stylists, gowns, guest transport and florists. There are 32 exhibitors at this stage.
  - At this stage, there are only 3 local venues on-board - there is hope that more will join especially those at the Southern end of the range.
  - The Hinterland Times are doing a lift out feature in the June issue. Shiralee is doing a fantastic job through Social Media promotion and local businesses are asked to



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promote the expo via their own Social Media Networks. The Village Wedding Expo Committee are looking at ways to reach all of South East Queensland, particularly Toowoomba and the Granite Belt; Gympie and Brisbane Regions.

- A map is currently being developed, showing the location of registered venues to be handed out to attendees.
- Little May Espresso is an exhibitor and are doing the catering.
- Prize Draw - prizes are to be tangible and donations are being requested. This is a great publicity tool for the Expo and businesses alike.

**Action:** Barbara Lamont requested that DL Flyers be distributed – this will be addressed.

- **Glasshouse Mountain Awards** - 14 Businesses from Montville have been nominated, and 6 individuals from Montville are nominated. Huge amounts of votes are being received from the public, warranting a separate 'Public Award' to be granted. The Committee agreed to donate two prizes, the first a one year Membership to the Chamber, the second prize (donated by Shiralee Illume Creations) being a glass paperweight. There are two more prizes required and members were asked to donate a prize if they felt inclined.
- **Cruise Ship Information** - Shiralee took the opportunity to discuss the Cruise Ships expected to bring great Tourism Business to the Hinterland. There are different demographics' within the Cruise Ship industry, so it is necessary to attempt to cater to each of these. Local coach tour providers Mystic Mountain Tours has been contacted to provide transport from Mooloolaba. Factors to consider are: Price; Cancellations; Need to be on time; Wide-spread venues. The floor was asked for ideas to contribute to this, which can be forwarded on to Lynn of Mystic Mountain Tours by Friday.

**Action:** Anton asked that a small interest group, made up of members of the Chamber, come together to assist Shiralee and Barbara in pursuit of this.

### **President's Report – see below**

**Vice President's Report:** Anton reported that at the recent Management Committee Meeting it was agreed to accept the proposed Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct determines how the Committee works for the best interests of all involved in a fair and legal manner. The code is a modified version of the CCIQ template. MCOC Committee of Management, Procedures and Regulations are being clarified, including the development of Role Descriptions and Policies. This is what the Committee are working towards refining

over the next few months. A copy of the Code of Conduct will be uploaded to the Website and a link included in the next Newsletter. It was raised from the meeting that the Constitution must be congruent with what is specified in any documentation. This was agreed to and will become a piece of work for the general membership at a later time.

Shiralee and Anton are role sharing as joint Vice Presidents. Last night Anton went to a Visit Sunshine Coast networking event and was able to speak with the Mayor, the CEO of the Airport and the CEO of Visit Sunshine Coast on matters relevant to the MCOC strategic plan

Shiralee took the floor. She wanted to honour and farewell Carolyn and Jack Frost of Irish Scottish Shop, Connemara Cottage, they have been longstanding members of the community for over 30 years. They will be presented with a framed Certificate and a glass paperweight from the Chamber. It would be appreciated if members could wish them well before their departure.

She concluded by asking if it would be well received to deliver two Newsletters per month instead of just one? The members agreed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark took the floor and discussed the Chamber's current financial status. He offered the printed statements for anyone to view.

#### **What's On:**

- **May 5** 15 Va'a World Outrigger Sprint Championships 5000 visitors
- **May 6** Closing date for voting on the Glasshouse Small Business Awards
- **May 8** Mother's Day
- **May 7/8** Sunshine Coast Arts and Crafts Fair at Montville Village Hall
- **May 10** (10:00am to 3:00pm) - Conversations with Industry and Destination Q Sunshine Coast. By: Tourism and Events Queensland Aussie World
- **May 11** Sunshine Coast Volunteer Expo
- **May 14** Montville Market
- **May 16 -21** Small Business Week
- **May 27/8** Maleny Show
- **June 19** A Village Wedding Expo
- **July 8-10** Queensland Garden Expo

**Meeting Closure:** Anton thanked Montville Bar & Grill for hosting us and closed the General Meeting at 7:00pm.



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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – from Allan Rhode**

Welcome one and all,

A hopefully quick update on what has been happening since the last MCOC general meeting. I have attended a meeting in Palmwoods with representatives from Council – Jenny McKay and Julie Cullen, from Palmwoods business group and local business representatives including our own Lyn Fallon from Mystic Mountain Tours in regards to cruise ships and attracting increased visitor numbers. This is a whole world of its own and will require some dedicated input in order to capitalise on the increasing number of ships that now call into Mooloolaba.

The Council is doing more than its share of the hard work to attract the ships and it is up to the individual regions to determine if they wish to try to build their share of the tourism dollar that it may offer. Mayor Jamieson meets the passengers at the dock as well as the VIC staff attending to offer any assistance that they may require. This has resulted in Mooloolaba achieving the highest “Port Score” in Australia. “Port Score” is based on passenger and staff feedback on facilities, assistance, friendliness and this is what cruise lines rate highly when choosing which port to dock at.

Unfortunately, in Mooloolaba, the weather for loading / unloading plays a big part in whether or not passengers actually disembark. If we wish to take advantage of these cruise ships and the potential income, then a separate and dedicated group will have to take this on as there are a myriad of factors to consider. The tour companies, not the cruise lines are the determining factor on whether or not to send a tour bus to the region. At the moment the tour groups may attend Eumundi Markets, Aussie World, Australia Zoo, Maleny Botanical Gardens or take a trip to Montville’s shopping experience.

This is something that requires careful consideration and I believe a big input from Julie Cullen from the SSC Council.

I also had the opportunity to go to Sydney with a delegation from the SSC regional council area sponsored by Qantas. Attendees were from various chambers, business and SSC Council.

We provided a presentation to the NSW Business Council – the NSW version of our CCIQ. We had a good reception from them and I believe that the council has had some private conversations with some businesses with the view to having them come to the coast. I spent my day talking to a number of people about our region and the benefits to coming to the Blackall Range. One of our group was Howard Aron – the owner of Youi insurance – a locally based company, and he also felt that this trip was worthwhile as well.

I attended the MVA general meeting. I have offered the MVA support from the MCOC towards projects if there is a chance that we can contribute in a positive way. Doug Patterson read a letter out – published this week in the range news, which states that MVA does not support a debate on the Sundale project at this time, as we have no real facts and by just having conjecture, nothing can really get resolved. The Sundale group had only

released a draft concept plan at their public meetings so that they could then move forward with their surveys of local residents to judge public opinion. Until there is a concrete proposal, placed before the council or the state government, we have no real basis for an informed debate. This was supported by all in attendance. I believe that a sensible approach is to wait and see before we make any decisions in haste.

On a sad note, Doug stated that his lovely wife Cate has been diagnosed with a form of cancer and as such he will be scaling back his workload in the MVA. I wish Cate and Doug all the very best for the future, they are truly very kind, very generous and delightful people who showcase what is best of Montville's community. Our thoughts are with you both. Lastly on something closer to home for myself, I have some personal issues that are affecting my life and this will need some time out to get sorted. To this end I submit my resignation effective immediately as President of the MCOC. This is not my preferred option; however, I find no other solution at this point in time. I apologise to my fellow Management committee members for leaving so much undone now that we are well on the road to having our house in order again. The committee is doing an incredible job, they are all volunteers and to see selfless dedication from such a talented group is inspiring. I wish you all and the MCOC the very best for a positive future.

Thank you for allowing me the chance to be a part of the team. I do wish to remain a MCOC member and have agreed to continue to assist with the Village Wedding Expo. I know that the chamber members will get to reap the benefits of being a part of such a vibrant organisation.

Thank you.