



GENERAL BREAKFAST MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 9th March 2022

Venue: The Edge Restaurant

ATTENDANCE: Shiralee Cooper; Wayne Malkin, Alan Dryden; Samantha Ryva; Clive & Elizabeth Waring; Arabella Lubbers; Joy Aimee; Susan Diplock; Shell Rodney; Ali Khan; Deanna Behrendt; Deborah Hammond; Jase Bowen; Danni; Nicole Hilton; Tamara Large; Wayne Parcell; Xochi Lindholm; Natalie Lindner; Gretchen Keelty; Andrew Powell MP; Andrew Wallace MP.

GUEST SPREAKER:

Andrew Wallace MP Federal Minister for Fisher

Gretchen Keelty - Arts Connect President

Andrew Powell State Minister for Glasshouse

Wayne Parcell – The Rangebow Festival

APOLOGIES:

Cr Winston Johnston, Lynn and Andrew Fallon, Peter Collins

The Meeting opened at 7.40am with Shiralee Cooper as Chair.

A warm welcome to members and guests was extended by Shiralee Cooper.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD on Wednesday, October 13 at The Garden Shed

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 13th October, 2021, be confirmed as a correct and accurate record.

Moved by Alan Dryden

Seconded by Tamara Large

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Shiralee confirmed that incoming correspondence was published in our newsletters with a couple of updates to be reported in the meeting.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Montville Economy – Montville up by over 25% in 2021 compared to 2020 while the December quarter was slightly down. Being exposed as a tourism town those figures would be a result from the impact of the covid mandate. Also, businesses having to shorten their business hours or close as staff become infected or were a close contact would contribute to the downturn.

Weekender – Great to see the Sunshine Coast Hinterland being promoted on the program and in particular Narrows Escape who are also in the running for the Hosted Accommodation Award at the 2021 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards on Friday 18 March 2022 at the Sunshine Coast Convention Centre.

New Website – We are applying for a major grant to develop a tourism-based website www.visitmontville.com

Streetscape – Had a meeting with council discussing the projects they will work on. Currently we propose continuing the footpath to Altitude, then looking at the bridge and using possible iron art work on it as it is used in other parts of Montville. Also we are investigating themes for new path inserts as well as the possibility of beautifying the power poles with some 3D art which will need to be approved by Energex. Of course, there will be garden beautification included. It's great to see many businesses already taking that lead.

Planning Scheme Workshop – OSCAR are holding a workshop to discuss the Sunshine Coast Council Planning Scheme on 18 March at the Northshore Community Centre from 5:30pm.

Easter – We would like to see some fun event that would generate a buzz for businesses in Montville. It's already a busy time in town but it would be good if we had something that converted the Easter visitors to stay a little longer. If anyone has any ideas, please let us know.

Kondalilla Walks – Alan advised they are still not open which does have an effect on accommodation as 60 to 70% of their guests wish to do the walks.

Flood Relief Lismore – Flaxton Barn are collecting essentials to take to Lismore, cleaning products, XL clothing, toiletries and the likes. Visit their Instagram page to find out more.

TSI No 1 – Sunshine Coast ranked No. 1 in the world as the most loved destination based on the 2021 consumer sentiment. Tourism Sentiment Index finds and analyses conversations from around the world. To be able to name the top 100, they kicked off 2022 with an intensive study of Tourism Sentiment Index data -- that's 1.6 billion online conversations and content pieces publicly available about 21,330 global destinations. Tourism Sentiment Index is cutting-edge technology that applies the power of artificial intelligence to the challenge of deciphering sentiment from human expression.

Andrew Wallace Federal Minister for Fisher Guest Speaker advised:

Flooding Crisis

- We have all been overwhelmed with the current flooding crisis and while Brisbane had next to 6000 homes and businesses flooded the Sunshine Coast had reported only 2. Hats off to the Sunshine Coast Council for maintaining the infrastructure to enable water to get away quickly.
- Federal Government is funding \$1000/adult and \$400/child along with joint funding with State Government of \$180/person to a maximum of \$900/family.
- Primary producers, small businesses who are impacted and can't work will get the equivalent of 13 weeks Job Seeker payments.
- Primary producers' recovery grants of up to \$75,000 are available and can be used for various clean up and reinstatement activities including salvaging crops and repairing damaged farm infrastructure and equipment.
- Businesses and not-for-profit organisations recovery grants of up to \$50,000 are available and can be used for clean-up activities, repairs including damage to equipment, flooring and walls, and to replace lost stock.
- \$1 million for each of the 19 affected local governments for relief, recovery and resilience activities in their communities.
- Defence Forces need to be invited by State Governments before they can assist.

Ukraine Crisis / Australian economy

- We are in now in a geo politically unstable time, the worse since 1945.

- Ukraine is not a member of NATO and if European countries intervene in the crisis, it could become a world wide war.
- The Federal Government's main concern is will Putin stop at the western border of Ukraine.
- Australia does not have any strong trade ties with Ukraine or Russia.
- Australia's economy is as large as Russia's.
- The major issue for Australia is fuel security with only limited supply of Gas/Petrol/Diesel on shore. Australia currently has 27 days availability. We work on a "just in time" supply chain. We do have a year's supply being stored in the US.
- Australia only has 2 refineries in operation, one in Brisbane the other in Melbourne. The Federal Government is currently offering funding incentives to these refineries to keep operating and to invest in structure to expand their holding capacity.
- Australia's unemployment rate is currently at 4.2% expected to drop below 4% by end of year. (Lower than pre COVID.)
- Inflation has been rising globally, however the RBA says Australia's economy is in a favourable position. We are only one of 9 countries who have survived through covid with a triple A credit rating.
- If Australia faced a blockade today critical services would survive for around 12 months. Of course, life would look very different. Things such as commercial flights would be stopped. In those 12 months we would be able to ramp up our own production.
- Advised that he felt the Federal election would be on the 14th of May, this was his opinion only. He needs support in his booth if anyone has some time they can donate.

Rail on the Sunshine Coast

- He will fight for the rail between Beerwah to Maroochydore being the Caincross corridor.
- He is against light rail.

Questions from the floor:

Clive asked whether the increased price of petrol and availability will see improved subsidies for EV. Andrew opined that EV prices were coming down and that the answer was a complex one.

Gretchen bemoaned the lack of public transport and asked if the ADF could be deployed. Andrew replied that they are there to protect our security not to build infrastructure.

Natalie (Montville Pharmacy) advised of the inequity whereby Maleny benefits from a government subsidy for Medical Centre appointments and Montville doesn't. This has seen the reduction of services in Montville to just two days a week. She has requested if we could supply a letter of support sent to the Health Minister Greg Hunt. Andrew Wallace advised he would contact Ochre to ascertain why they closed and then reopened to only 2 days a week prior to going to the Health Department for more answers and get back to Shiralee.

Shiralee thanked Andrew for attending and giving us updates on these crucial matters.

Andrew Powell State Minister for Glasshouse Guest Speaker advised:

- He liked our idea of adopting a chamber and asked that it be a more holistic approach including other towns surrounding Gympie who are also doing it tough. He is happy to make contact with the sitting members for those regions to discuss and come back to us.
- He would like everyone to have their say on the Town Planning Scheme. While it is the SCC planning scheme, he advised that this plan will dictate what happens in Montville

and across the Blackall Range. The plan will drive our housing, shops, light industry and aging in place. How do we feel about population growth we are currently listed as no growth until 2041? If we want slightly more growth, will we have the resources to manage it. Council anticipates 500,000 people living in the Sunshine Coast by 2041. Do we want that?

- It's really critical we pay attention to the code accessible and look at the current Montville footprint as the code will determine what development can happen. For example, the Maleny Fuel Station was never going to be stopped as the council rezoned that area to industrial in a past plan allowing for the fuel station. That is why it is very important to have your say.
- Andrew asked for feedback on the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill the Government is wanting to extend from April to October in anticipation of further covid outbreaks. Just because it's extended does not mean it will be enacted. Or have we had enough? Considering we are 95% double vaxxed. He advised they don't have the numbers to change this but he would like feedback to provide to the Government. A question was asked if we don't extend it and we have to declare an emergency how long would it take to enact the bill again. Andrew advised if they are seating only 24 hours. A show of hands was a resounding no, do not extend the Bill in question if it can be granted expediently if needed.

Shiralee thanked Andrew for attending and giving us lots to think about and reminding us especially about the importance of having our say in the Town Planning Scheme.

Gretchen Keelty Arts Connect President Guest Speaker advised:

- ACI currently has around 200 members.
- Their big event each year is Sculpture on the Edge receiving about 7000 visitors and she thanked all the sponsors present.
- They expanded their Open Studios last year to include the Sunshine Coast. 1st week will be open studios on the coast and 2nd week open studios in the Hinterland.
- They are hosting an Arty Farty Party on 30th March and all are invited.
- They wish to connect and form partnerships with other businesses and organisations suggesting some ideas like activating events such as Artist in Residence, making them stronger and more sustainable.

Shiralee thanked Gretchen for attending and telling us their plans for Open Studios.

Wayne Parcell – The Rangebow Festival advised:

- He thanked Andrew Wallace for all his support in their application for a Rise grant of \$280,000. Unfortunately, they were not successful.
- They now are moving to Plan B and seeking financial support requesting mid-range donations in the hundreds from local businesses giving in return a presence on their website and other promotion. Andrew Powell advised he would be able to give some assistance.
- After researching similar events they believe it will attract about 10,000 people which will have an economical and social impact on the Hinterland. It's a party with a purpose.
- Program will be finalised this Friday.

Shiralee thanked Wayne for attending and keeping us informed on the festival.

Christmas in July – Shiralee advised that we are not having the Christmas in July street festival this year. Will host a Christmas in July theme dinner and dance the same as was organised last

year but was cancelled due to a covid outbreak. Shell advised date booked Saturday 2 July, she has booked the venue, organised the food and working on booking the band. Tickets will go on sale soon.

Montville Map – Arabella advised the map is going to the graphic designer and we should have a proof soon. By only including chamber members on the back of the map was an incentive to become a member.

Shop Local – After surveying our members more than 1/3 advised they suffered a 50% or greater loss than 2 years ago, pre covid. The committee have decided to promote our members on social media giving priority to those we know need help with social media first. We will then run some social media workshops for those businesses that need assistance in this area. Shiralee asked if there were any other businesses that could spare 10mins a week to visit these businesses and give them some tips.

Qld Brides Blogs & Vlogs - Shiralee advised we are still working on this project; drone footage has been done and working on story boards.

General Business

Toilet sign near Montville Antiques – Samantha asked is there a possibility of getting the sign changed as people don't see the other toilet sign and then go all the way down to the park and come back and say they couldn't find the toilet. Shiralee advised it's something that Streetscape could look at with the council.

Social Dance – Xochi advised she had organised once a week 60-minute casual dance in the hall. Come along, socialise and dance. Not set program, just put on music and dance.

Next General Meeting: TBA

The Meeting closed at 9.00am

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Shiralee Cooper, President