



# Montville Chamber of Commerce Inc.

## GENERAL BREAKFAST MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 20 July 2022

**Venue: Elements on Montville**

**ATTENDANCE:** Shiralee Cooper; Arabella Lubbers; Susan Diplock; Deanna Behrendt; Deborah Hammond; Tamara Large; Andrew McLean; Lynn & Andrew Fallon; Martin Duncan; Richard Sargent; Tina Cooper & Wolfgang Engel; Cameron Outridge; Sarah Hallam; Rafer Rodgers and Nicole Hilton.

### **GUEST SPREAKERS:**

Martin Duncan – Sunshine Coast Foodie

Lynn and Andrew Fallon – Mystic Mountain Tours

### **APOLOGIES:**

Cr Winston Johnston, Peter Collins, Andrew Powell, Natalie Lindner, Tracey Malkin

**The Meeting opened at 7.50am 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, March 9 at The Edge Restaurant**

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022, be confirmed as a correct and accurate record.

**Moved by Shiralee Cooper**

**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.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Shiralee advised that Spicers Clovelly GM Mark Greenan and Head Chef Tyrone Hunt were to be guest speakers today talking about their Curated Plate event 'Hinterland Producers Lunch' being held on July 31<sup>st</sup>. However, they have not arrived today and we are yet to hear what has happened. (Mark called to say that they had to fill in for absent employees at the last minute.)

### **Martin Duncan, Sunshine Coast Foodie Guest Speaker advised:**

- That many businesses did not know the importance of having and using photo libraries and urged in particular cafes and restaurants to start collating a library to use for social media posting. The great thing about having a photo library is the ability to schedule social media posts. However, don't just take a shot and post it. It's important to edit images so they look their best. A tool he recommends using is the warmth feature. We want to showcase the food of the Hinterland as people plan their visits around where they want to eat as that is part of the experience when visiting or holidaying and great imagery is essential in promoting their own business and the hinterland at large.

- The Curated Plate is back in 2022. From 29 July-7 August, local restaurants, farms, tourism and event operators will throw open their doors in offering the best of the Sunshine Coast's local food and beverage experiences across a ten-day period. There are 38 events across that time with 16 events across the hinterland. Their website has all the venues opening, events and ticket information. Mapleton Public House is showcasing Chef Alejandro Cancino.
- A must go to at the Rangebow Festival is the Forage Fire Feast - a First Nations Gourmet Experience. A stunning menu has been designed by Aunty Dale Chapman, a proud Yuwaalaraay Kooma woman from Dirranbandi and one of Australia's leading indigenous award-winning chefs using sustainable, ethically sourced bushfoods and local produce.
- Martin encouraged members to try out the new menu at Mapleton Public House with outstanding local chef Cameron Matthews.

Shiralee thanked Martin for attending and updating us on all things foodie. She advised it is a challenging time for our food outlets and we need to get behind them. So many are having staffing issues which has resulted in increased wait times for customers to be served and of course then complaints. Consumers not always being the kindest to the situation. Shiralee advised that there is currently a shortage of 3000 chefs in Queensland alone.

**Lynn Fallon, Mystic Mountain Tours Guest Speaker advised:**

- Lynn advised that their business has had to adapt on the go and change business models several times over. The Government is currently telling you to work from home again, but that is just not possible in our business. It is with sheer determination that we have kept our business running through covid and we have worked together with other businesses and seek out connections to find opportunities. We have persevered and listened.
- They have been in business for 19 years now and are passionate about supporting local food businesses working together to promote the area at large and they are currently making changes and creating new tours showcasing the foods of the hinterland. There has been a healthy shift since covid especially on their wine and beer tours. Previous to covid some saw it as an opportunity to drink as much as they could while being driven around. Now there is a shift that people are connecting more and more interested in nature, food and community making it a better experience.
- They are very excited about their partnership with Wayne and the Rangebow Festival and offering 3 tours one each day so 9 tours in total, all named by Wayne to fit in the Rangebow Festival theme. Lynn is particular excited to use the beautiful One Tree Hill spot as it showcases the natural beauty of our region while being able to enjoy a Maleny Cheese tasting, combined with local honey tasting. They would also be visiting Tina Cooper Glass studio in Montville overlooking Lake Baroon, breathtaking work and views. Lynn asked Tina to tell us a bit about what to expect. Tina advised she and Wolfie have created some special new works to celebrate the festival. You can purchase tickets online for:
  - Sniff, Lick, Nibble Tour
  - Up the Arts Tour
  - Grapes of Mirth Grains of Truth Tour
- Encourages us to support the Rangebow Festival and Wayne especially who has funded this event using a lot of his own money. We want this to become an annual event.
- Andrew Fallon advised that they would be placing more porta loos in Montville to allow for the increased visitors which they are expecting to be about 6000. They have addressed the parking issue by setting up park and ride from Maleny Show Grounds and Mapleton Hall carpark and are investigating connections to Landsborough. They expect there will be about 2000 cars and we all know if they drive through Montville and can't get a park they will just drive off and we need to be smart and get them parking and riding so everyone benefits.

Shiralee thanked Lynn for attending and inspiring us and suggested the chamber could help with promoting their tours.

Rafer also advised that if people are searching for funding through grants and wanting a good grant writer Jo Miller would be a good contact to connect with.

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

**Sunshine Coast Flights** – Flights to the Sunshine Coast are ramping up from Adelaide and New Zealand with others to follow and hopefully we will see an economic boost.

**Sunshine Coast Spending Figures** – We have received the latest spending results from the Sunshine Coast Council Economic Department. It showed we had a better December than January which is surprising and there was an increase in Sunshine Coast and local spending which meant more people must have been shopping locally. February spending was down though with the floods. November is traditionally a quiet time but with SOTE on in November this year we should see a change in that trend.

**Sculpture on the Edge (SOTE)** – Shiralee advised that the change of venue to Flaxton Gardens and that Alan Thompson would be sponsoring the \$10,000 first prize and dedicating the entire venue over the event to support it. Shiralee advised she had had conversations with Gretchen, President of ACI and they advised they are reducing the number of awards categories this year but making it more accessible and there will be more parking. The event will be more about exhibition space.

**Covid** – the latest wave is causing all sorts of problems for businesses which we identified before for café and restaurants. Mask wearing seems to be on the increase.

**CCIQ Pulse Survey** – Take CCIQ's June quarter Pulse Survey, the link is on our FB page and was in our newsletter, to help CCIQ better advocate to government with our business needs.

**Sunshine Coast Council Thriving Through Change Business Expo** - Tuesday 23 August from 3pm - 7:30pm. The expo will focus on business resilience and growth, while allowing attendees to listen, learn, connect and grow with a network of support on the Sunshine Coast.

**Griffith Uni QR Code Check-in Research** – The Uni is conducting research on the QR code check-in process in the Covid period 2020-2021 in which they would like to understand store managers/owners' experiences, thoughts, and opinions. Shiralee advised it would be great if a few business owners are willing to participate, she will be one of them. It will be great to get a cross section as this policy impacted businesses in different ways. It is important to collect feedback to better understand the ramifications of imposing restrictions.

**Sunshine Coast Australia Day Awards** – Nominations for the Sunshine Coast Australia Day Awards are now open. The Award categories are: Citizen of the Year; Senior Citizen on the Year; Young Citizen of the Year; Community – Group or Organisation; Sustainability; Creative Sport and Recreation. For more information including the category criteria please visit council's website.

**Bin advertising** – We wanted to support The Rangebow Festival and thought some bin advertising would be a great way but it did not happen however we could use this idea to brighten up bin day advertising other events such as SOTE or using our winning photographic competition photos. Tamara advised we have a quote to have bins cleaned for \$15 each and

then a sticker printed for about \$65 so for under \$100. If anyone has any ideas on what we could advertise please put your ideas forward.

**The Barn on Flaxton** – It was great to see the community response to the looming closure of the Barn and how it worked to keep the doors open. It showed how we treasure these places and appreciate what we have.

**Montville Map** – We have some maps here for anyone that would like them. We have produced 10,000 copies. Susan from MVIC said they are going across very well at the centre. Arabella advised that we are looking at making them A3 next year to allow for some advertising as well.

**AGM** – Date scheduled for 17 August TBC at Flaxton Gardens 5.15pm for 5.30pm start. We have some nomination forms for committee members here today which close on 3 August. We have a couple of spaces available on the committee and it would be great to get a representative from the arts community or main street.

**Montville Commerce Dinner Dance** – save the date 15 October, \$75 a ticket with a 3-course meal and dance. Once the AGM is passed, we will advertise where you can get tickets.

#### **Streetscaping**

- The lamp post outside Crystal Multiverse has been restored although Richard is not sure about the safety of its installation.
- The new bin contractors started last week and didn't empty business bins until around 11am which meant parking spaces were taken up for visitors and not a good look in the main street. They emptied residential before they did the commercial and this should be swapped around Shiralee said she would follow up with Cr Winston Johnston.
- The 40km has started in town.
- Parking on yellow lines near Crystal Multiverse is now being monitored by the council and fines are being issued and we are working with the council on a garden solution.

**Qld Brides Blogs & Vlogs** - Shiralee advised 'Nestle in Nature' Vlog has been completed and we will put a link to the Blog and Vlog on the chamber website.

#### **General Business**

**SVG stories** – Cameron advised he would love to have any stories and photos sent to him for inclusion in the paper. Nicole to add to our newsletter with link to contact Cameron.

**Gap Year Sunshine Coast** – In relation to the need for more staff and members saying we need the council to be more aware, Nicole advised the council created a program advertising Qld Tourism and hospitality jobs where you could post jobs that were being promoted interstate by the council to attract workers to our region. She would put the information back up on our FB page and add to our newsletter again.

#### **Next General Meeting: TBA**

The Meeting closed at 9.00am

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Shiralee Cooper, President