

## **Presidents Report August 2018**

Thursday 9 August 2018

The Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce. Inc. AGM  
Currumbin RSL

### **Hilary Jacobs – President**

#### **Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce**

This Presidents report is my second following our merger in 2016 to create the Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce Incorporated. From here on today to save my voice, the GSGC Chamber...

\*\*This time last year we had reached around 70 financial members and had around \$27,800 in funds. This year we have 76 members and close to \$33,000 in the bank and float. Our Treasurer John Forrester will have more details on our financial status in his report.

Our membership is made up of five Gold members, nine Silver members, seven bronze members, The Sun Community Newspaper are our media partners, we have 51 general members and three lifetime members. Without the support of all of our members and the volunteering of our committee and executive the GSGC Chamber wouldn't exist. So Thank you to everyone here for your ongoing and continuing support.

At our last AGM the executive was confirmed as myself as President, two Vice Presidents being Jo-Ann Smith and Ian Grace, Secretary being Mike Remmer and John Forrester was appointed as Treasurer. The Executive is ably supported by our committee members of Joan Farmer, Peter Doggett, Paul Guerin, John Mitchell, Terry Hobson and Josie Kay. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the executive and committee for their support and efforts during the past 12 months. Thanks to everyone.

\*\*2017-18 has been a busy year and I think we can all agree that much of it was dominated for one reason or another by the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

As a result, whilst we had fewer meetings many were about or because of the Games and because of this we had good turnouts. Of the eight events we had, our average attendance was close to 70. An increase of well over 10% in attendance over the 2016-17 year where it was around 60 per event.

\*\*As previously mentioned the 2018 Commonwealth Games was a big part of the past year. As many of you will recall we started engaging with Goldoc after the Gold Coast won the Games. As early as November 2015 Mark Peters CEO of GOLDOC was our guest speaker. This was to the first of a number of Games speakers over the last 3 years, culminating in Kate Jones, then Minister for Innovation & Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games addressing over 90 guests for breakfast on 15 March this year.

Part of our Commonwealth Games projects included setting up a specific web page on the GSGC Chamber website to bring information which would be useful to our members all in a single page. This provided a one stop location for details specific to Currumbin and the Southern GC Area.

During the run up to the Games the Chamber was involved heavily with the Get Set for the Games unit which was a group created by the City Council to engage with business to ensure that they were ready for the potential impacts of the changes the Games would bring. As the Games were set up it became obvious that the impact wasn't just for the days of the events but was for the duration of the bump-in and bump-out period before and after the Games. It became clear that in order to minimise this impact there was the

need for planning and activity. As most of the events in this region were un-ticketed we needed to ensure that every opportunity to take part in events outside the main games themselves was maximised.

Following our early engagement with Goldoc we were invited along with Currumbin RSL, and Currumbin Sanctuary to form a group to examine how the positive messages could be spread and business that needed help could get it. We were a conduit for local business to get support and ask questions of the Get Set Team. A local shop front was set up to pass information to the public and ensure that the opportunities resulting from the Games were enjoyed by as many people as possible. The outcomes on the day were excellent, with participation of the locals maximised.

Apart from the Commonwealth Games we also held following events in the year in review;-

Our July 2017 speaker was Karen Andrews Federal Member for McPherson. Over 60 guests heard about the changes in the 2017 Federal Budget for small business.

\*\* In August 2017 we had a very well attended breakfast with Rose McArthur, Director of Transport Management for the Commonwealth Games as guest speaker for Goldoc. The Get Set for the Games team was there and over 125 guests learnt more about how we were all going to be affected by the games.

Following the AGM in September where we heard from our Gold members as well as the AGM business our next breakfast meeting, was in November 2017. The topic was Commonwealth Games Security and Superintendent Mark Plath was our speaker and around 45 people enjoyed another great RSL breakfast.

\*\*In October we held one of our ever popular Business After Hours Events. The Than Bin Bamboo restaurant at The Strand hosted around 40 of us to enjoy great food and a pure networking event.

Once we'd all got Christmas over with our first speaker for 2018 was in February and Ben English, the new Editor of the Gold Coast Bulletin was our speaker. Just so we knew there was event coming up, Rose MacArthur Director for Transport Management for the Games came and again presented too. Around 45 guests attended.

As previously mentioned Kate Jones was our guest speaker in March 2018.

\*\*Once we'd all recovered from the Commonwealth Games we invited Mayor Tom Tate to close out our year in June. Tom was welcomed by over 100 guests and answered questions as varied as finding space for the Gold Coast Show to finding alternative places to bury people.

The GSGC Chamber of Commerce is active on many committees and groups. The Chamber is recognised as the voice of business for our area from the Tallebudgera Creek to the NSW Border. This influence means that we are consulted by many local government and State government bodies. In the south of our catchment we are represented on the Coolangatta and Kirra Core Business Centre Master Plan group, the Southern Gateway Advisory Committee, consultation on the Sandtunes event previously planned for Coolangatta in December 2018, now delayed due to pressure in part from the Chamber to December 2019. For the northern sector of the area we are included in the Palm Beach Business District Masterplanning and we promote and encourage the Burleigh, Palm Beach & Elanora (Police) Community Consultative Committee. For the whole of our catchment the Chamber is on the Light Rail Business Advisory Group, The World Surfing Reserve Local Stewardship Committee and we promote and encourage recognition of the Chamber for the local media. The Chamber has good relationships with the Sun Community Newspaper with which we have a media partnership, thank you to everyone at the Sun for your continued support. The ABC radio and Win TV regularly asks for comments on local business issues. The Chamber is also a bronze affiliated member of the CCIQ.



The chamber is active in many other areas around the area. One longstanding arrangement is the support of PBC School, for Australian Business week. Last December we again sponsored this event by providing medallions for every student who took part in a week long virtual business environment to learn about how business works. The Chamber also assisted in locating business mentors for the event.

The Chamber Facebook page has over 225 likes. It is used to promote the Chamber, our activities and to keep the local businesses informed of events and activities in the area. This included things like the Community Police Consultative Committee meetings and the upcoming Policeman's Ball on 25 August at Seagulls in Tweed.

In summary we have continued to grow and build our relevance to the business community. Our membership, and financial security continued to improve. We can now do more for our members and an enlarged and dedicated committee are planning to take us even further in the coming year.

Before closing I'd like to add a note of thanks; I'd like to sincerely thank Terry Hobson, who has been on our committee for the past 12 months and along with his business A Gentle Touch Funerals is a Gold supporter of the GSGC Chamber. Terry is standing aside from our committee; however he intends to remain a Gold member. Please join me in thanking Terry for his contribution this year.

In closing I'd like to thank our past and future committee for all of their endeavours and commitment to what is after all a voluntary role.

I'll now pass you to our current treasurer, John Forrester – John