

Presidents Report September 2017

Thursday 7 September 2017

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

Hilary Jacobs – President

Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce

This report is the first since our EGM's in June last year where the Creek to Creek and Southern Gold Coast Chambers voted to merge. Under our new constitution our AGM is to now take place within 6 months of the end of the financial year and when I looked back at the last time I did an AGM report, which was back in February 2016 for the year ended December 2015, things were very different. It seems like a very long time since I became the President of the Creek to Creek Chamber in March 2015.

As I reported at the last formal AGM we've grown from a Chamber of around 20 financial members back in early 2015 with \$9,575 in funds to a membership of close to 70 and funds at the close of July of \$27,875.27. It should be noted that this still does not include the funds to be transferred from the former Southern Gold Coast Chamber, which are in the region of a further \$3,000.

Later this morning our Treasurer will present the Creek to Creek Audited accounts for the period from the last AGM until our formal incorporation of the Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber in January 2017 and for the period from Incorporation to 30 June 2017 for the newly formed Chamber.

At the EGM the Management Committee was set up to consist of myself as President, two Vice Presidents being Chris Ward and Jo-Anne Smith, and Treasurer as Mike Lee. Soon after this we were able to appoint Michael Remmer as Secretary and through the year we've also added Ian Grace and Paul Guerin as Committee Members.

During the year under report Mike Lee resigned as treasurer due to his work commitments changing and Michael Remmer picked up that role as well. More recently Chris Ward sold his interest in 19th Avenue on the Beach and resigned as VP.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank both Chris Ward and Mike Lee for their work for the chamber of Commerce and to wish them well in their future endeavours.

During 2015 the committee had started to grow the chambers membership base and had improved the delivery of our breakfast and after-hours events. Our average attendance for events had been raised to over 50, which was a great result.

2016 was a somewhat disjointed year due to the merger. However we managed to maintain the growth and we now boast an average of 60 guests per event.

The slide shows the events we held and numbers who attended.

In summary we held the following events.

February 2016 - AGM – Joint presentation with the RSL with guest speakers from the RSL and Soldier On. Around 100 people attended this meeting.

March 2016 – we had an After Hours at Currumbin Vikings. About 35 people attended this networking event where the only thing I do is the raffle!



In April we held a joint meeting with the Southern Gold Coast Chamber and discussed the proposal to merge. Gail O'Neill was our speaker as the newly elected councillor for Division 14. 48 people attended.

In May Karen Andrews was our speaker at Coolangatta Surf Club. The Southern Gold Coast Chamber hosted this meeting.

Our last meeting before the EGM was in June and Gold Coast Airport were our guest speakers they spoke about their plans for the airport to take us to the Commonwealth games and well beyond. 55 People attended this meeting.

Our EGM was well attended and both Chambers voted unanimously to merge the two Chambers, and then the red tape began! More on this later.

With a small executive committee following the merger and lots of paperwork to trawl through our first post-merger event at held in October. The subject was the 2018 Commonwealth Games and over 45 people attended.

November saw the Office of Fair Trade as speakers.

The Chamber held an annual dinner in December where over 60 guests enjoyed a beautiful dinner and entertainment was provided by the Youth Music Venture.

And so to 2017, this year is going so quickly.

The first meeting for the year was with Mayor Tom Tate as guest speaker. Mayor Tate was on form that morning and was outdone by a surprise appearance of Peter Beatie, who was in the area to make a Commonwealth games announcement.

Over 135 people attended this meeting and set the tone for the rest of the year!

March saw a joint RSL and Chamber breakfast hosted by the RSL. The RSL presented details of their Community report.

Jann Stuckey was our guest speaker in April with over 50 in attendance and May saw Cllr O'Neill as speaker for our breakfast held in Coolangatta.

Our June Breakfast was another to feature the 2018 Commonwealth Games, this time about legacy of the games, and attended by around 40 guests.

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 provided business mentors for the event.

The Chamber of Commerce is active on several committees and groups. These include the Southern Gateway Advisory Committee, The Light Rail Business Advisory Group, The World Surfing Reserve Local Stewardship Committee and we meet regularly with the Presidents and leaders of the other Chambers around the Gold Coast. The Chamber is also an affiliated member of the CCIQ.



Again in 2017 I have been invited to be on the group advising Karen Andrews as part of the Stronger Communities Grant Program. A further \$150,000 available for the coming round for local not for profit groups to apply for match funding for Capital works.

The Chamber Facebook page was renamed and has now reached over 200 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.

Recently the Chamber entered into a partnership with the Sun Community Newspaper. This provides the Chamber with the opportunity to engage with the community on vital issues which affect commerce in the Southern Gold Coast area. We provide a copy for a regular piece "Turn this Town" along with details of our events being advertised. The Sun Newspaper are now recognised as a Partner sponsor of the Chamber. Thank you to everyone at the Sun for your continued support.

In summary we have consolidated and merged. Our membership, and financial security have improved dramatically. 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.

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.

Before I pass you to our treasurer I'd like to read a letter to you from our auditors. As a matter of background you will recall that I mentioned earlier that during the actual merger process we had encountered a lot of red tape.

Part of that was that when we first applied to merge the two chambers we discovered that the Creek to Creek Chamber had in fact been de-listed and as far as the OFT was concerned no longer existed. This had occurred without any of the then or current committee being aware in September 2014. The President at that time was still Darren, and it is unclear if even he was aware.

Copies of this letter will be on our website and copy of the letter is also on each table.

Letter from Ross Calvert

This then explains why we actually only now need to have one set of audited accounts for the OFT for the new chamber only.

I'll now pass you to our current treasurer, Michael Remmer - Michael -

Treasurers Report – Michael Remmer – Treasurer Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce

Good Morning

Firstly, each year Crowley Calvert & Associates prepare our accounts. This is a long standing arrangement which is dealt with as a contra for membership of the Chamber. Please can I ask for someone to propose and someone to second that we maintain this arrangement for the financial period 2017-2018?

Proposed-

Seconded-

Thank you

As you can see from the following slides of our accounts for 2016 we made a profit of \$4,773.75 in 2016 against a profit in 2015 of \$9,352.81.

Our balance sheet improves over this period from \$16,769.23 to \$21,542.98.

The 2017 results are impacted by the dates applied for the merger as mentioned by Hilary. On the tables are copies of the 2017 Audited accounts for the Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber.

In effect when the two balance sheets are considered together whilst we showed an operating loss of \$21,542.98, this was a result of the transfer of \$31,1651.64 to the new chamber accounts which conversely shows a profit of \$29,718.01.

These accounts will be uploaded in full to our website today.

In the meantime as the accounts which we submit to the OFT are to be the audited accounts only for the new chamber for June 2017 can I please ask for someone from the floor to propose that the accounts be accepted. And some to second that?

Proposed -

Seconded -

Thank you

Hilary -