

CAMDEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY INC.
GENERAL MEETING,

3 SEPTEMBER 2008, COMMENCED 6:40PM

Apologies and Attendance as per book

Apologies: Catriona Clayton, Natasha Towers Etc

Previous Minutes

m) Jenny Thurling s) Nicky Harris

Treasurer's Report

m) Roger McIntyre s) Bill Parker

Corro:

1. Member Officer: Roger McIntyre – nominated, - appointed.
2. Light Up Festival.
 - David Anderson - update
 - 3 Stages – Main Stage, 2nd stage dedicated to schools, 3rd stage near Pizza Hut dedicated to young bands catering to teens.
 - Rides to be re-introduced
 - Campbelltown Performing Arts, Clowns Etc,
 - Santa arrival top secret
 - Free entry
 - Leagues Way major sponsor donating \$8,000.00.
 - Good deal with C91.3 for sponsor – gold \$1,000.00 – 35 x 30sec, \$550 – 25 x 30 sec, \$280.00 – 15 x 30 sec on radio – see handout.
 - Live crosses also organised on the night
 - See David for application for sponsorship.
3. MACROC – Rob Elliot (Economic Figures)
 - Camden LGA running at full employment
 - 3.2% unemployment rate for Camden LGA
 - Building approvals up
 - M5 & M7 movements up
 - Macarthur Construction up to 132%
 - Property except Wollondilly is stagnate. Sydney has dropped 9%, so area is doing well.
 - If look at rest of State, Macarthur holding its own. All 3 councils working through MacRoc to stabilise Macarthur.
 - If work together as things get tougher, can insulate and maintain position.
 - Looking for information, MacRoc available to assist. Feel free to call.
4. Jenny Thurling
 - Patchwork mania 5 minute business spot.
 - Started approximately 15 years ago in career
 - Opened own shop in 2002 near Medicare and now in largest shop in town.
 - Teaches how to make own quilt with 4 teachers employed as well as international teachers.
 - Quilt has 3 layers – decorative top, backing and middle filling.

- Takes on all aspects – functional to decorative.
 - Also sell Janome machines and machine repairs as well as accessories
 - Also lessons in quilting and embroidery.
 - Doesn't do garment making lessons.
5. Guest Speaker – David Waidby CEO Macarthur BEC
- If grow business, grow employment
 - BEC help people get into business, assist small business.
 - What is BEC?
 - i. Business support service
 - ii. Not for profit
 - iii. Local board representation
 - iv. State and Federally funded
 - v. Gives business health check and provides ideas
 - vi. Government support to increase/expand small business
 - Made up of:
 - Facilities
 - Programs
 - Training
 - Events
 - Vision to contribute to growth and sustainability.
 - Objective to provide range of services and nurture low cost environment to give new/existing small business opportunity to grow and succeed.
 - Business Development Centre (incubator) at Smeaton Grange.
 - i. Excellent new business environment
 - ii. 6 light industrial units – 50 sqm
 - iii. 14 office suites 15-50 sqm
 - iv. Onsite management/guidance
 - v. Services
 - vi. 3 year period
 - City Centre office facilities at Campbelltown
 - i. 21 office suites 10-30 sqm
 - ii. Full reception
 - iii. Training, boardroom hire
 - iv. Great location and environment for new/small business
 - v. Low risk – 1 month in, 1 month out rather than 12 months
 - SWS Business Advisory Service
 - i. State/Federal funding
 - ii. Free information/guidance to small business
 - iii. Training – Start up, tax, Marketing etc
 - iv. Weekly seminars (various topics) is the aim, hope to run across various areas. If service not utilised, will be lost.
 - v. Professional Services – legal and financial professional services.
 - Other programs part of – SYMMETRY Sustainable business with Bill Parker
 - Other programs – Nab micro enterprise loan
 - i. Up to \$20,000.00
 - ii. Unsecured

- iii. 9.9%
 - iv. Financial training
 - v. Business planning
 - vi. Must be spent on the venture
- Training – in partnership with DSRD
 - i. Stepping Up
 - ii. Manufacturing Week
 - iii. Small business week (with state government)
 - iv. (22-26/9 – run seminars)
 - v. Also weekly seminars
- Events
 - i. Business breakfast series.
 - ii. Next breakfast – November
- Also, David Koch with Campbelltown Chamber.
- Awards
 - i. Staff Giraffe Awards, recognise excellence in staff performance.
 - ii. Under reconstruction
- Membership
 - i. Support, establish business to support new business.
 - ii. Going through re-build at moment.
- Involvement
 - i. Partner and committee member for Mac. Lifestyle and Business expo.
 - ii. Member National BEC
- Benefits
 - i. Higher success
 - ii. Growth of local economy
- Priorities
 - i. High occupancy rates
 - ii. Utilise services
 - iii. Local involvement and support and sponsorship.
- Part of funding must be spent on financial or legal services, up to 5 hours free advice from organisation registered with BEC. Happy to hear from anyone who would like to provide those services.
- 6. Guest Speaker – Bill Parker
(Symmetry Sustainable Business Advisor)
 - Sustainability
 - Sustainable business – Sustainability principles
 - i. Environment
 - ii. Community
 - iii. Prosperity
 - iv. Empowerment

- A good environment is smart business
 - i. Unique sustainability program for business with up to 20 employees
 - ii. Developed from a number of industry based projects
 - iii. Series of small steps to enhance business
 - iv. Achieve best practice in sustainability
 - v. A regional first opportunity to show small business sustainability
- Powerful partnership
 - i. UWS
 - ii. MacRoc (Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils)
 - iii. Funded by AusIndustry
 - iv. Macarthur BEC
 - v. Centre for Sustainable Living
 - vi. Macarthur Advertiser and C91.3 – provide media coverage.
- A support program for business
- Assist identify and improve business practices
- A few steps
 - i. Information about program
 - ii. Symmetry Workshop
 - iii. Accreditation
 - iv. (one on one available if unable to attend a workshop)
 - v. Supply toolkits and resources
 - vi. Help business to strive to build capacity (bringing efficiency into business).
- Increase Efficiency – Reduce Costs
 - i. Assess business operations
 - ii. Flexible objectives
 - iii. Broad criteria
 - iv. Build triple bottom line practices/people, profit, environment.
 - v. Symmetry tools
 - vi. Focus on future
- Be recognised:
 - i. Merit based accreditation
 - ii. High profile program
 - iii. Showcase marketing – (media exposure, website, Symmetry gallery)
 - iv. Use of Symmetry accreditation logo and branding getup.
- Progressive program – 3 stages – bronze, silver and gold.
- Progress and improve capacity over 3 stages of program
- Making improvements in the future,
- Get started – workshop September 16 at 8:30am – Midday at Smeaton Grange.

General Business

- Any items for future meetings – email Miriam.
 1. Executive Meeting – 15th September 2008, all welcome at Patchwork at 7:30am – vision for future 12 months to be discussed.
 2. Rod McGrath – Business and Lifestyle Expo - 6/7/8 March. C91.3 giving away \$20,000.00 advertising package to an exhibitor.
 3. Roger McIntyre – great to see turn out tonight. Any guests/new members can see Roger for application.

- Members to direct queries/new business to Chamber/Roger for membership.
4. Lucky door – Camden Printing.

Next Meeting: 1st October 2008

Guest Speaker Vaughn McInnes to discuss DA for old Camden High school site

Meeting Closed: 8:30pm