
BELLINGEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ANNUAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2019

BOARD MEMBERS

Libby Park	President
Tricia Helyar	Vice President
Rod Keers	Treasurer
Hilary Cadman	Secretary
Arne Hansen	
Margaret Girdwood	
Paul Harper	
Yvonne Wynen	

John Simon was elected to the Board at the 2018 AGM but withdrew mid-year due to the pressure of other commitments.

All board members undertake their roles in a voluntary capacity. Thank you to all for their contribution to this year's activities.

BOARD MEETINGS

11 Board meetings have been held since the AGM in October 2018:

- 20 November 2018
- 19 February 2019
- 21 March 2019
- 18 April 2019
- 16 May 2019
- 13 June 2019
- 25 July 2019
- 22 August 2019
- 19 September 2019
- 24 October 2019
- 20 November 2019

The first of these meetings did not have a quorum and no official minutes were recorded.

BOARD MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Libby Park	attended 11 meetings
Tricia Helyar	attended 10 meetings
Rod Keers	attended 10 meetings
Hilary Cadman	attended 8 meetings
Arne Hansen	attended 3 meetings
Margaret Girdwood	attended 8 meetings
Paul Harper	attended 10 meetings
Yvonne Wynen	attended 8 meetings

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Membership of the Bellingen Chamber of Commerce has remained stable this year, with 100 members. Our new strategic plan identifies an opportunity to increase our membership numbers.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Chamber of Commerce this year:

Coffs Coast Automatic Doors – Daniel Finney

Handybin Waste Services – Peter Creenaune

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

Early in the year the Chamber undertook a strategic planning process with an external facilitator, Kerry Pearse. This resulted in a clear understanding of our current state and where we want to be in three years' time. We refreshed our vision, purpose and values, and identified five key focus areas for the members of the board to organise their efforts and activities to best achieve value for our members. These are:

Member Services (responsible board members: Hilary Cadman and Yvonne Wynen)

Influencing(responsible board members: Libby Park and Arne Hansen)

Partnering (responsible board members: Tricia Helyar and Paul Harper)

Communicating (responsible board members: Rod Keers and Paul Harper)

Governance (responsible board members: Libby Park and Margaret Girdwood)

The Strategic Plan will be posted on the Chamber's website following this meeting.

EVENTS

In March the Bellingen Chamber of Commerce and the Bellingen Nambucca Affordable Housing Action Group partnered to host a Meet the Candidates event for the state elections

An information session with the National Parks and Wildlife Association NSW was held at the Memorial Hall on 6 March 2019 regarding the proposal for the development of a Great Koala National Park in our area

In April this year, the Chamber hosted a breakfast meeting at Cedar Bar where Ian Scott from NBNCo presented on the rollout of the NBN and provided information on the process and timing for businesses to switch to the NBN

In May the Bellingen Chamber of Commerce and the Bellingen Nambucca Affordable Housing Action Group again partnered to hold a very well attended Meet the Cowper Candidates in the lead up to the federal elections

In July the Chamber hosted an Israeli breakfast at the Corner Store. Attendees had the opportunity to discuss the plans for the Memorial Hall refurbishment project with executive members of the Bellingen Shire Council

A public information evening to provide information on a survey to gauge public opinion on the proposed logging of the Kalang headwaters is currently being planned with a date to be confirmed. The Chamber of Commerce is taking an auspicing role in supporting this community initiated project to conduct the survey. The Chamber will oversee the process to ensure that the survey is independent and that the survey results are credible.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Chamber of Commerce is pleased to partner with a number of influential organisations within Bellingen, including:

The Bellingen Co-Working Group to support and promote a range of events

The Bellingen Nambucca Affordable Housing Action Group whose support was invaluable in achieving the two successful Meet the Candidates events for the state and federal elections.

Camp Creative whose successful week long camps are held in January each year attract many visitors to our town.

It is anticipated that further partnerships will be developed in the coming year.

NSW BUSINESS CHAMBER

Membership of the Bellingen Chamber of Commerce entitles members to free local Chamber of Chamber Alliance Membership of the NSW Business Chamber. The benefits of this include access to a Business Hotline, a Workplace Advice line, special rates for events, listing in their Business Directory, and a 20% discount on upgraded membership of the NSW Business Chamber.

At their recent AGM their members voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new Constitution to make significant changes to their operating model, and it is anticipated that this will flow through to our members as an improved range of services and increased support for us as a small local Chamber of Commerce.

Further information about these changes and what they will mean for us will be communicated to our members early in the new year.

SUPPORT FOR TOURISM

The Chamber works closely with the Economic and Business Development Manager of Bellingen Shire Council to support and promote a range of initiatives and projects.

FAIRIE EMILIE MEMORIAL

In early 2013, following the suicide the previous year of Emilie Ades, also known as Fairie Emilie, the Bellingen Chamber of Commerce supported a group of her close friends to raise funds to create a memorial to her. A number of challenges prevented the project from being completed as originally planned. The funds in the dedicated Chamber of Commerce account currently sit at \$1,116.21. However, in consultation with one of her close friends, plans for the memorial are now finalised. We are pleased to announce that a fairy door from Smallhavens and an engraved plaque will be installed at the Youth Hub and the funds will be donated to the Youth Hub to contribute to their work in supporting mental health initiatives for young people in our town. A ceremony for the installation will be advertised shortly.

CHURCH STREET PERGOLA

The pergola in Church Street has now been erected. The Chamber was instrumental in achieving this solution through hosting a public meeting with executive members of the Bellingen Shire Council September 2018 to discuss options for completing the street works in Church Street.

WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2020

As ever, the members of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce will give their best efforts to supporting the sustainable economic development of Bellingham through providing information to members and hosting a range of activities and events. Suggestions, requests and practical contributions from members will be very much appreciated.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance sheet and profit and loss reports at December 2019 will be presented by the Treasurer and will be posted on the Chamber website following this meeting. The Treasurer's Report forms part of the annual report.

Date: 5 December 2019

A square box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Libby Park'.

Libby Park
President, Bellingham Chamber of Commerce