



We acknowledge the sad loss of former President David Nicholson. On behalf of all members of the Chamber, we extend our sympathy to David's wife Sue Schmolke, his son Peter, daughter Diana, step son Paul, and their families.

Newsletter August 2008

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1. NEXT MEETING – 1st day of Spring!

Already feeling that beautiful positivity that comes with the 1st warm breeze in September? Bring it with you to our next meeting -

- Guest speaker, Shane O'Donnell, TourismTouchscreens. Shane is a late inclusion to our program but is available at the last meeting to present to us. TourismTouchscreens have been installed at Grafton info centre for 7 years, and it seems there could be a brilliant opportunity for Yamba to get one – plus use their network to promote ourselves around Australia.
- Monday, 1st September, 2008.
- 7 am start.
- \$15.50 hot breakfast or \$13.50 continental breakfast.
- Meeting room down the hall from Cunjevoi Restaurant.
- RSVP 28 August, - only needed if having breakfast info@yambansw.com.au
- The door prize for this meeting – for financial members only - will be naming rights to the “Art Walk” at the Surfing the Coldstream Festival taking place on October 24, 25, 26 2008. Come on down to the meeting and give yourself a chance to expose your business name to the anticipated 10,000 visitors coming to town for the festival!

2. NEW IDEAS – STRATEGIC PLANNING

Skilfully guided by our treasurer Maria Evans, we revisited our 'Mission' last meeting and will go ahead at our October meeting with putting some specific goals up on the board. Have you something to share? We want to hear your ideas. If you can't get to the meeting please email your ideas through to info@yambansw.com.au and we will ensure they are added into the mix.

3. FEELING LUCKY?

Little did member Mark Grace of Wesley Uniting Employment imagine that he was going to win the *****LUCKY***** door prize when he came to the last General Meeting. Mark's prize is to be our Showcase Guest at our September meeting, giving the opportunity to profile his business at the meeting and to all our members through our newsletter.



4. SHOWCASE BUSINESS: WESLEY UNITING EMPLOYMENT



Yamba 6603 0500

*..staff are local people
that understand your
needs*

*..non-profit groups can
list their organisation at
no cost....*

Vision Statement

“To be at the heart of our community where everyone has the opportunity to live a whole and productive life.”

The statement above is not just the Wesley Uniting Employment ‘Vision Statement’ but also reflects the heartfelt social conscience of all staff at Wesley Uniting Employment Yamba.

Wesley Uniting Employment Yamba caters to the employment needs of Yamba, Maclean, Iluka and surrounding communities, focusing on the value in every person and finding the right person for your vacancy. There are many tools at our disposal to assist us in achieving this, such as Employer Wage Subsidies, Work Readiness Assessments, Paid Work Trials and a Post Placement Support second to none. The service is free with enquiries always welcome so if you are considering staff recruitment you have nothing to lose by giving us a call.

Wesley Uniting Employment Yamba has undergone some significant changes recently, becoming a stand alone site with its own manager, rather than being monitored as an outreach office from Grafton. There are four people on site, Mark Grace (Manager), Jenny Ensor, David Parkes and Jude Macbeth. All staff are local people that understand your needs and are ever mindful of continuous improvement, community focus and providing exceptional customer service.

Ed note: Congratulations Mark and the team on your ongoing great work!

5. GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

Noticed the fine new banners on all three of the Chamber's Banner Poles? These poles require a considerable amount of maintenance and getting the new banners has been a big job for members Bev Mansfield, Rick Angelo and Roger Warsop of Vital Signs. Further thanks to the same Three Musketeers for the even greater effort it has taken to restore the Village Notice Board back to its former pristine condition. There has been a change to the arrangement on the board whereby non-profit groups can list their organisation at no cost on the reverse side of the board. There is a new, easier to read, map which has been provided courtesy of Jennie Massie of Clarence River Tourist Assoc. Business advertisements will go back up once payment has been received. One vacancy exists on the board. If you want to make it yours please contact info@yambaNSW.com.au

The next signage project for the Chamber will be the revitalisation of the immensely valuable Pacific Highway signage. As is the habit of the Chamber, all sign-writer members will have the chance of quoting for this job.



6. MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

About 100 people turned out on Monday night to hear from candidates in the forthcoming CVC election. Candidates were allowed 3 minutes to introduce themselves before the microphones were turned over to the audience for question time. Issues raised included the differential rates system, sewage infrastructure for Iluka and a number of questions focusing on protecting our natural environment and biodiversity. Thank you to Sammy Hunt for her skill in keeping the night on track, timekeepers Elizabeth Kime and Kathy Lollback, and to Bev Mansfield for assisting me with fielding the roving microphones. Appreciation goes to Yamba Bowling Club for providing the venue set up ready to go.

Ed note: Well done Chamber member Steve Pilley, on highlighting those candidates who chose to have their political advertising printed OUTSIDE of the Clarence Valley and bringing the SHOP LOCAL message to the fore.

7. ELIZABETH KIME... OUR ONLINE WIZ info@yambansw.com.au

Having a responsive, articulate, and witty contact available via our website is a little known strength. Liz works hard to promote not only the delights of Yamba as a holiday destination but also its business houses. During the past month enquiries fielded included:

- A Sydneysider having discovered the delights of Yamba Prawns in Nambucca Heads inquires as how to lay his hands on them in Sydney. Lucky man, info@yambaNSW.com.au replies, he can run right down to the Sydney Fish Markets and buy them, fresh from the ocean, every day: and next year he should give himself a real treat and come to Yamba for a prawn holiday...
- Seafood again, a woman is concerned she has spotted an at risk species of fish for sale in a Yamba shop. However the good news is that she bought a Chamber calendar to send to friends in the UK. info@yambaNSW.com.au replies to acknowledge her distress and recommends her concerns be raised with the Department of Primary Industries – and we hope our naughtily nude members made a big hit in England.
- An enquiry for an excellent dog boarding kennel? An easy request for info@yambaNSW.com.au as we have several such businesses – all owned and operated by Chamber members.
- Could info@yambaNSW.com.au please advise if there would be an open garden display any time in September as some Victorians are hoping to include Yamba in spring gardens bus tour itinerary. Refusing to be beaten, our web-wiz forwarded the details of our well-known garden centre, Frog's Hollow, and suggested that they would certainly be in the floral loop.
- And one more from the many received... a plea from another Sydneysider who couldn't remember the name of the excellent campsite near the Iluka ferry wharf that she stayed at some years ago – could info@yambaNSW.com.au help? Hope she enjoys her coming holiday at the Calypso Caravan Park!

Ed note: Liz, you're a wiz and doing a terrific job!

*...he should give himself
 a real treat and come
 to Yamba*



8. WWW.YAMBANSW.COM.AU

Our website is having the cobwebs dusted off its inner workings at the moment – keep an eye on it for some exiting new features, including the Return of the Photo Gallery, the birth of Postcard from Yamba, the monthly posting of the Chamber's Newsletter and, shortly, the regular appearance of the Minutes of General Meetings in cyberspace. Member's listings are, slowly but surely, being amended as requested – but that job can only be completed when all members have returned their renewal of membership forms to the Chamber: is there one lurking in YOUR in-tray by any chance?

9. NETWORKIN' YAMBA

Networkin' Yamba is an initiative of the Chamber and Rotary, for not just members but all people to get to know others in our community. The next networking night will be on Wednesday 10th September, 5.30pm. This time round it will be at the Yamba Bowling Club in the room at the back of the auditorium. Sponsors for this event will be Professionals Clarence Coast Real Estate and Bendigo Bank. RSVP to Kevin Hassey - hassey@inet.net.au

...get to know others in
our community...

10. RATES ENQUIRY

Following an enquiry at the July General Meeting, the Chamber asked CVC's advice concerning the 2008/09 Rate Structure for this area. Whilst pointing out that all rate payers will be provided with full details of a Summary of Rates and Charges with their rates notices they go on to say:

In levying the 2008/9 Rates and Charges Council was required to use new land values provided by the NSW Valuer Generals Department with a base date 1st July 2007. Overall the land valuations within the Council area increased on average by 20.8%".

The detailed response will be available at the next meeting September 1, 2008.

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11. MEMBER NEWS

- Well known local artist and gallery owner, Lyn Ford, is bringing an outlet of **SILK & SAND** to Yamba Street. Taking the space next door to BCU, Lyn will be concentrating on an eclectic stock which will include some deliciously high-fashion shoes, very wearable and pretty clothes, interesting souvenirs and jewelry and featuring her paintings. Lyn has generously allowed us to use her unique postcard scenes of Yamba in our new "Post Card from Yamba" feature on www.yambaNSW.com.au
- YPS Real Estate have many exciting developments underway in Yamba, Maclean, Lawrence and soon in Suffolk Park. Check out www.ypsrealestate.com for more information.
- As if Maria Evans, bookkeeper, educator and Chamber Treasurer, isn't already flat out, she recently coordinated a youth homestay program which saw students from Oklahoma USA visit Yamba and district for a couple of days. All students were treated to local hospitality and returned home with bags groaning with Yamba purchases.
- Tania & Wayne at Yamba Newsagency are proud winners of the Daily Examiner's Outstanding Marketer of the Year Award at the recent award night. Staff member Vicki James also took away an award - Runner-Up Employee of the Year!

...students from
Oklahoma USA visit
Yamba and district....

12. SURFING THE COLDSTREAM

As this exciting event 24, 25, 26 October, draws closer, the team is looking for volunteers. A separate volunteer application will be sent out along with this newsletter. It's a great opportunity to get involved, and have a great time, with a world class event.





13. CLARENCE AHEAD INC

Not to be missed, this dinner *The naked tourist - future of tourism exposed* will feature Russell Mills, CEO Northern Rivers Tourism, and formerly Tourism NSW Regional Director for UK and Europe. At Maclean Services Club, Wednesday 17th Sept 6.30pm. Admission \$25.00 per head includes 2 course meal, tea and coffee. Bookings for this event by Friday 12th September. Tix available in Yamba from Fletchers Fotographics.

Ed Note: I've heard Russell speak before and highly recommend attending to hear his well informed, and innovative approach to tourism.

14. YSLSC 100th Anniversary



The Surf Life Saving Club's Centenary Book will be launched 9th September at the Clubhouse. This is the actual 100th birthday of the formation of the Club. The book is a great record of the Surf Club from 1908 to the present day and includes lots of photographs. There are two big weekends of celebration 27/28 **September** - this is the surf carnival weekend with a big influx of visiting competitors from as far afield as North Queensland and the south coast of NSW. This is followed the next week by bowls and golf days and a dinner at the Bowling club 4th October. There will then be a big gathering of past and present club members and supporters from near and far at the surf club on 5th October for a BBQ. Businesses are encouraged to decorate stores and windows during the celebrations.

15. CREATIVE ECONOMY

Clarence Valley Council Economic Development have announced NSW Small Business is targeting creative businesses. Here is an opportunity to learn the latest and greatest in small business development at a workshop to be facilitated by Wilson Main from Creative Economy. The workshop has been designed to provide a no-nonsense guide to marketing and business growth for creative businesses in the Clarence. The workshop program will assist participants critically examine their business, define market segments, evaluate commercial viability and develop tools for creating a unique and sustainable business advantage.

If you are in the creative sector and want practical survival tactics then this is a must do event. The program is funded by the NSW Department of State & Regional Development and Clarence Valley Council as part of the Clarence Creative Program.

Date: Monday 15 September 2008
Time: 9:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Venue: Quality Inn, Grafton
Bookings: Free. Book on 66450292 or edu@clarence.nsw.gov.au

*(EK Secretary note: Having had a lot of previous experience with DSARD seminars I could not recommend trying to get to this one strongly enough. They only use fabulous speakers/facilitators and in my humble opinion their workshops are worth their weight in gold – all that and for **FREE!** If I owned a shop I would be running to get my name on the list for this one. Perhaps if you do go you might like to come to the October General Meeting and tell us all about it?)*

16. THE SOLUTION

...a bigger market for the positive thinkers...

As far as I can see the only good thing to emerge so far with the "Confidence Crisis" seems to be some prospect of an interest rate cut, but even then the banks may not pass it on. Australia is not going backwards.... We are just not going forwards as fast as we were.... Growing but at a slightly slower pace! I've been around a long time with 30 plus years in the business and have seen this negative reporting turn into self fulfilling prophesies for some businesses.

The Solution...*The best solution I've seen over the years is to ignore the negative thinkers and keep promoting actively and look for new opportunities to make sales and profits. The ones that give in to negative thinking and try to cut costs to "maintain profits" go to the wall. This leaves a bigger market for the positive thinkers when growth speeds up.*

Ron McKnight, Managing Director, Phototechnical

17. COMMITTEE CONTACTS

The Chamber of Commerce has a role in representing the group with a number of important community organisations. There are a number of vacancies. If you can assist with representation on any of these committees please advise your interest. Currently the committees and representatives are:

- Police Acc.Com. Team (PACT) Sammy Hunt
- Plastic Bag Free Yamba Tania Williams
Sallyanne Miranda-Madden
Marea Buist
- Yamba Sewage Aug. Project Vacant
- Yamba Community Facility Development Sammy Hunt
- Street Cruise Vacant
- Crime Prevention Group Sammy Hunt
- Yamba Water Recycling M'ment Vacant
- Lower Clarence Liquor Accord Sammy Hunt
- RTA Deviation Committee Vacant
- Surfing the Coldstream Bev Mansfield
- Yamba Market Bev Mansfield
- Clarence Valley Tourism Board Robert Thompson, Karen Toms
- CV Business Excellence Awards Kathy Lollback
- Clarence Ahead Inc Robert Thompson
- BEC Steering Committee Karen Toms

There are a number of vacancies....please advise your interest

18. CHAMBER CONTACTS

The Chamber Secretary, Elizabeth Kime, can be contacted at info@yambaNSW.com.au or PO Box 278 Yamba NSW 2464 Australia.

Tania Williams can be contacted at Fletchers Photographics Yamba, Shop 8, 8 Yamba Street. Ph: 66461983 yamba@fletchers.com.au

Bev Mansfield can be contacted at Mansfield's Marine, Yamba Road. Ph 66469433 bevmans@bigpond.net.au

19. MEETINGS FOR 2008

Chamber meetings for the remainder of 2008:

- Monday 1st September
- Monday 13th October (NB the 6th is a public holiday)
- Monday 3rd November
- *December no meeting

We would love to hear your ideas, feedback and suggestions!
