

Yamba District Chamber of Commerce.

Our AGM was held earlier this month. It is amazing how those three letters (AGM) can keep people away. I was again elected, unopposed, to continue my role as President and a few new names volunteered for the Executive Committee. Welcome to Chris Thomas from Blue Allure, Barry Adams from Yamba Pawn Brokers and Rachael Smith from Sprucies. I thank you for joining the Committee and offering to help with the many issues that we all deal with each year involving Yamba and its residents. Thank you to Sue Hughes, Rick Angelo, Bev Mansfield and Ken Adams for continuing on.

Many businesses are finding this year's winter period harder than normal. More than our fair share of rain has fallen and it has been great to enjoy the recent bouts of sunshine. We have Government issues that are creating uncertainty in the economy and Global issues with a number of countries that will require 'pain before pleasure'.

In saying that, we are all looking forward to Spring and Summer to get our own economy flowing again. There are four or five new businesses opening up soon which is a great sign of encouragement for all business owners. We all sense that it will be a better year coming with opportunities to make up for lost turnovers and profit.

Our council has continued to beautify the streets with recent maintenance to the landscaping. We thank them for this, considering all the extra work that has been needed after record rainfall and subsequent flooding this year.

Our Chamber's new web site is just about finished albeit running a few weeks late. Local businesses and trades are encouraged to join their Chamber and appear on this site. Only members will feature on it, so at \$1.50 per week to belong to the Chamber, it is a bargain.

The 'Surfing the Coldstream Festival' is being organised for Saturday 15th October. Many volunteers are working behind the scenes to make this a great event. Look out for it and keep the day free to enjoy the entertainment. Yamba needs these event and the events need you.

Keep warm, keep safe and keep happy.

Kind regards

Graham Lees

President.