



January 2011

Diary Dates

IR, Awards, Fair Work Seminar

Wed 19th January 12 noon - 2.00 pm
NSW or Chamber Members \$35 or \$75
South Grafton Ex Services Club
Through St, South Grafton ([see page 6](#))

Next Chamber Meeting

Wed 19th January 5.30 pm
All members welcome
[Caringa Enterprises](#) room
Through St, South Grafton

Fair Work Seminar

Thurs 27th January 10.30 - 12.30 am
All Welcome *RSVP* Gold coin donation
The Cathedral Meeting rooms
Duke St, Grafton ([see page 6](#))

Also in this Newsletter

[Bridge Survey Closes 8th Feb](#)
[Changes to Legislation affecting Small Businesses](#)

[Regional Regeneration Conference 2011](#)

[Newsletter Advertising](#)

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Grafton Chamber of Commerce & Industry Newsletter

CONTACT Email : office@GraftonChamber.org.au

News and Features Summary

Click on the links to bring up additional news held on our website.

IR, Modern Awards and Fair Work Information

Seminars The Chamber has secured a number of experts to come to Grafton to speak on these matters, and help businesses keep up to date. The first seminar will see Workplace Relations Specialist, Blake Briggs, from the NSW Business Chamber, who will speak and answer questions on a wide area including IR, Modern Awards and Fair Work legislation. (With our membership of the NSW BC Grafton Chamber members can attend for a reduced cost of \$35).

The Second seminar is organised by the Grafton Chamber specially for the Hospitality and Retail businesses, and will cover only the Fair Work legislation. This is arranged as an information session, plus an opportunity to network with other businesses to exchange ideas. This event is free. More information: [GO TO Page 6](#)

Chamber Membership Drive. "Bring a Friend"

We need more members to continue and expand our service to a broader section of the business community. Every Member who introduces a new member in January or February will receive a free 1/4 page advertorial in the Chamber newsletter in the month of your choosing during 2011!. Also NEW members can receive membership to the end of June 2011 for only \$60. [Email James](#) or print off a membership form from our website WWW.GraftonChamber.org.au

Rally Aust World series car rally coming to Coffs Harbour 9/10/11 September 2011

Updates will be on our website ([Notice Board](#)) as they become available. Organisers will be seeking local business for inclusion in their resources directory, and will be holding an update meeting in Grafton in due course. [More Page 5](#)

Workshops, Training and Courses

See our website for updates and ACCC updates. [More Here](#)



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Grafton Chamber's Activities and Events

From the Presidents Desk...

A happy (and hopefully, a prosperous) New Year to all

Let us look to making 2011 a better year throughout our city. There are certainly opportunities to lift business in Grafton and perhaps one of the major factors in this regard is to attract new business to our city. To this extent, your chamber is looking to hold a forum on revitalizing rural cities, with the emphasis on Grafton. Why have we lost so much industry over the past thirty years? What can we learn from this? How can we plan our future to recover much of this lost ground? Given that our capital cities are expensive places to live, and that a number of people are looking to establish elsewhere, there have to be opportunities to allow people to move to large rural centres. Hopefully such a forum can identify some of the constraints and possible ways forward.

As I write this, we are currently on flood watch. Whilst we are very wet throughout the catchment, we have missed significant flooding to this point. This is not to say we have escaped and it would only take heavy rain throughout the catchment to change this.

Our thoughts must go to the people of Queensland and the residents of the Murray

Darling catchment. As an area that suffers from frequent flooding we can appreciate what others are going through, and your Chamber will be organising a flood relief fundraiser for our friends in these flooded areas.

We look forward to a productive relationship with Clarence Valley Council and our State Government throughout 2011, to the benefit of all within our community. 2011 is a state election year and there are a number of broader issues that we must take the opportunity to continue to raise. Sadly, the Pacific Highway has claimed more lives over the holiday period and it is critical that this be addressed sooner. Some finality is required in relation to a new Grafton Bridge, its location and timing. We need to come together in relation to rates throughout our Local Government area and we need to ensure our existing businesses remain and we attract new business

We welcome member input in relation to any areas that can lead to a more prosperous community, and to this extent, please contact your executive if you have any ideas or issues that you feel we should be addressing

Jeremy Challacombe, President.
Grafton Chamber Commerce & Industry

Grafton Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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Executive Officer

James Patterson Mob/Txt 0457 768 641

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jeremy Challacombe

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Glenn Thompson

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Sandy Stewart 0411 845 290

Cllr Craig Howe 0418 845 201

(Council Representative)

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Banner Ad (19 x 2cm) \$ 40 per month

1/8 page (9cm x 6cm) \$ 50 per month

1/4 page (19cm x 6cm) \$ 90 per month

1/2 page (19cm x 12cm) \$160 per month

All copy and artwork must be received before the **2nd of the month**. Any member interested in advertising in the newsletter [email](#) or phone the Chamber on **6642 6183**

Reminder to employers of changes to various laws from January 1

The Australian Consumer Law (ACL), which commenced on 1 January 2011, The ACL covers a new Consumer guarantee, new Unfair Contract terms, and National Laws covering a number of sales practices, as well as new penalties. ACCC has developed several publications that provide guidance on key parts of the ACL.

Australian Consumer Law: what you need to know—a broad overview of the ACL and some of the key requirements within the law.

<http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/963190>

Consumer guarantees—specific details on the consumer guarantees which are a key part of the ACL

<http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/963172>

Fair sales practices including unsolicited consumer agreements, lay-by agreements and proof of transaction

<http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/964238>

A simple training module for business owners and managers is on the ACCC website at: www.accc.gov.au/consumerguarantees

Small Business Definitions changes for Unfair Dismissal Laws

There is also a change in the way a small business is defined for the purposes of Federal unfair dismissal laws.

Currently, a small business employer is defined as an employer who employs fewer than 15 full-time equivalent employees. From Jan 1, the method of calculation will be based on a headcount of employees, irrespective of the number of hours they work. The headcount will include casuals employed on a regular and systematic basis, employees of associated entities and the employee/s being dismissed.

These small business employers will benefit from a minimum employment period of 12 months instead of six months. This means that employees of these businesses cannot make an unfair dismissal claim in this 12-month period.

An updated Small Business Fair Dismissal Code Checklist is available at www.fairwork.gov.au. Employers or employees seeking assistance or further information should visit www.fairwork.gov.au or the Fair Work Infoline on **13 13 94** between 8am and 6pm weekdays.



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Recently local MP Steve Cansdell and NSW Premier Kristina Keneally toured the Grafton region surveying the impact of the floods. The Grafton Chamber has been asked to inform a number of agencies on how businesses were affected, what is needed and what resources can be mobilised to assist recovery. We would appreciate any information or feedback from Grafton region businesses, which will be handled confidentially and passed on to assist in the recovery process. Primary producers and small business owners of the Clarence Valley who have been affected by the floods are reminded that financial assistance packages may be available. See www.raa.nsw.gov (Picture by The Daily Examiner)



Telstra Store Grafton is moving!

Come & see us in our new store mid February—opposite Target in Grafton Shoppingworld, or call on 6642 8488

Join and Support the Chamber Support YOU!

MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM



Sandy Stewart JP Add It Up Business Services



With a flash of purple and a "Hi Ho Silver", most Clarence Valley people would recognise the highly active and bubbly Sandy Stewart, owner of Add It Up Business Services.

Sandy originally started operating her bookkeeping service as a home based sole trader in 2004. In 2008 **Add It Up Business Services** was launched and by the end of that year her client base had grown so much she employed a part time bookkeeping assistant. Sandy loves helping small businesses grow by taking the worry and stress out of everyday financial duties and all government compliance issues. Sandy is a qualified BAS Agent who trains business's with GST, accounting software, payroll management and financial reporting.

Sandy's business has also won a Clarence Valley Business Excellence Award in both 2009 and 2010!

This is Sandy's 2nd year on the Grafton Chamber of Commerce board; Sandy is also a member of the Clarence River Women's Refuge board and Chairperson of the Clarence Valley Business Excellence Awards board.

The Grafton Chamber is organising a **Regional Regeneration Conference** and seeking sponsors, stand exhibitors and contributors for this regional event targeting local and State Businesses, Council, Government and Industry managers and planners. For more information [contact James](#).

Christmas cheer and gifts were abundant at our final gathering of 2010 at the Blue Goose Hotel. Our sincere thanks to Scott and his staff team from the Blue Goose, for their excellent service, food and hospitality. Our members hosting the stands display spoke about their services and gave demonstrations. We had a number of prizes for the raffles provided by Summerland, The Chamber, The Blue Goose, Challacombe Farm and gifts from Cansdell Signs and TAFE!

The next Chamber event will be for the Hospitality and Retail Industries—a Fair Work Seminar with information tailored to these employers. There is no charge for this, and is provided by Coffs Harbours Fair Work Ombudsman Office. (See page 6).

Also the NSW Business Chamber is offering Grafton Businesses a seminar for the wider business community on the 19th January covering IR regulations, Modern Awards and Fair Work law. (See also page 6). Grafton Chamber Members have a special price of \$35. and Non Members \$75.

Due to Australia Day and the Floods, we have postponed our regular breakfast event to February. Wishing you all a healthy and prosperous New Year 2011!

WELCOME to our newest or returning members **Life FM 103.1**

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Coffs Harbour Car Rally 9/10/11th

The World Series Car Rally (FIA) being planned for September in and around Coffs Harbour offers Grafton businesses a big opportunity. The first day—Friday will be run in the Glenreagh area with subsequent days held further south. About 80 cars will take part, with teams arriving weeks before the event. The Tweed/Kyogle event realised an economic spend estimated at \$16.9M, with 86,000 event/special activity tickets sold and 20,000 visitors to area. Coffs Harbour is a regular venue for rally events, and this Rally will be held on existing courses.

The Grafton Chamber of Commerce is actively supporting this opportunity for local business to participate, and will advise you when more information becomes available, including the opportunities for local business to register as local suppliers/resources. Contact James at the Chamber if you would like more information or see our website for updates. A second information meeting with the organisers will be planned soon.

Grafton Bridge Survey closes 8th Feb

All businesses are asked to have their view heard. The RTA needs to hear your support for a bridge, and then also your preferred option. The locating of a future bridge will have an impact on local business, residents and the future of Grafton—we cannot avoid this. But we must take a wider and long term view on this issue. See http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/majorconstructionprojectsregional/northcoast/grafton_bridge/index.htm to register your views.



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- Home & Business Broadband connections

Coming soon in 2011 will be our Telstra Business Centre, where we will have a dedicated team that focus on what is best for your business and the bottom line. Jamie Cousemacker will head this team - you can either visit us in store or we can come to you. Come and see us in our new shop mid February opposite Target or call us on **6642 8488**

NSW Business Chamber Industrial Relations Workshop Grafton Wed 19th Jan

Are you up to date with everything you need to know with all the recent changes to IR legislation brought about by the introduction of Modern Awards and the Fair Work Act?

Join NSW Business Chambers' Workplace Relations Specialist, Blake Briggs, for an update on the current IR landscape and the changes coming in 2011. Covering everything from topical issues and recent legislative changes to expert interpretations of the sometimes confusing Modern Award transitions, this session will provide you with a greater insight into the current IR landscape.

Limited Vacancies - please book early!!

Grafton 19 January 2011, 12:00pm - 2:00pm

South Grafton Ex-Servicemen's Club

Also Lismore 20 Jan 2011, 7:00am - 9:00am

And Ballina 20 Jan 2011, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Cost (GST incl.)

NSW BC Members: \$35 ·

Grafton Chamber (Alliance) members: \$35 ·

Non-members: \$75

To register Call 13 26 96



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Fair Work Seminar for Grafton 27th Jan 2011

The Grafton Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been asked by a number of local hospitality and retail businesses to arrange a seminar about the Fair Work legislation.

Coffs Harbour Fair Work Ombudsman, Jason Rhodes, will hold a two hour seminar on Thursday the 27th January at Grafton Cathedral's meeting rooms between 10.30am and 12.30am. This is specifically for the Retail and Hospitality Industry. A Gold coin donation is asked for tea/coffee and to cover room hire.

Jason will present an overview on the Fair Work National Employment Standards, and follow up with a question and answer session on areas such as Minimum hours worked, Wage Transitional Arrangements, Breaks, Juniors and Fair dismissal of staff due to economic downturn. Some questions may be specific to individual businesses and he will be pleased to arrange a one on one appointment/chat to answer questions. More information email James.

Business Owners and Staff are reminded that the parking place you take up outside

your business is one less parking spot for a customer and a loss of income for your business and your neighbours. With limited parking in both South Grafton and Prince St, please make sure customers have somewhere to park.

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