



Grafton Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Newsletter

CONTACT Email : office@GraftonChamber.org.au

October 2011

Diary Dates

Chamber Breakfast Meeting

Wed 19th October

Arrive 6.45 am for a 7.00 am start

Sponsored by NSW Business Chamber

FREE - All welcome

GDSC Grafton

Newly appointed NSW Small

Business Commissioner, Yasmin King,

RSVP 13 26 96 to book a place.

The Small Business Commissioner will be visiting Northern Rivers on Wednesday 19th October to hear firsthand from local small businesses the challenges they face in operating their businesses and what role the NSW Government can play in the delivering of programs, services and other assistance to benefit the small business sector.

Next Chamber Meeting

Wed 26th October 5.30 pm

Caringa Enterprises,

Wharf & Through Sts South Grafton

All members welcome

Jacaranda Festival

Friday 21st Oct to Sunday 6th Nov 2011

**OUR NEW WEBSITE
WILL BE OPEN SOON!**

Also in this Newsletter

Review into
Retail Trading
Act

Complete Staff
Solutions win two
CVBEA Awards

WorkCover—
Work Health and
Safety Act
on-line

**Over \$36K spent
on each wedding!**

Newsletter
Advertising

Regional Tourism Product Development Funding Program

The goal of the NSW Government's new \$5 million Regional Tourism Product Development Funding Program is to create, grow and enhance tourism products available across regional NSW which will help to attract more visitors.

Destination NSW will be facilitating the funding program in conjunction with the Forum of Regional Tourism Organisations (FORTO). Applications are now open.

The Regional Tourism Product Development Funding Program will be delivered in two streams;

Stream One - Regional Tourism Organisation Allocation
Each mainland Regional Tourism Organisation will receive \$250,000 (total funding pool \$3,250,000). Applications for Stream One funding should be made via your [local Regional Tourism Organisation](#).

Stream Two - Large-Scale and/or State Significant Allocations

The additional \$1.75 million will be made available to successful applicants from the tourism industry for large scale projects that will significantly benefit a region(s). Applications for Stream Two funding to be sent to: Peter Hale Chief Executive Officer Forum of Regional Tourism Organisations (FORTO)
E: ceo@forto.com.au T: 0414 950 432

Deadline for submissions is 31 October 2011.



Sponsors and hosts of the Grafton Chamber website

Postcard from Toowoomba

Hi Grafton,

Just a note to let you know that next Tuesday I start a 12 month position with South Burnett regional Council as an Economic Development project Officer. It is based in Kingaroy (of peanuts and Joh B-P fame) about 6.5 hrs drive from here, 2.5 north of Toowoomba and 2.5 hrs NW of Brisbane. It is 430M elevation so humidity not as bad as here & temperatures similar if even a bit cooler.

It seems like a really good team developed since 4 councils were amalgamated in 2008, and the 2 projects are transport and skills audit/development. My manager has indicated there is likely to be more projects after this, so if we are all happy chances are the position will be extended. I'm really looking forward to the change and the work and to be part of a new team again.

If you are passing through that way give me a call for a catch up.

All the best and take care

Vicki

Vicki St Lawrence M: 0409 035 433



one cup's not enough..

to read through an edition of the
Clarence Valley Review

With over 100 community contributed
news and sports articles every week it's
the read of your life

Grafton-49 Queen St.
6642 8570
Yamba-126 Yamba Rd,
6646 9466

clarence valley **Review** the leader in local news
The Review is published weekly



Grafton Chamber's Activities and Events

From the Presidents Desk...

Grafton Chamber of Commerce President's report 2011 Annual General Meeting Ladies and Gentlemen

At our annual General Meeting a year ago, I highlighted the age of our chamber and I would like to reiterate this. We are another year older (116 years to be precise) and still striving to assist commerce in our city. Many have been doing it tough and it has not been an easy twelve months. In that time, we have a new state government and there was certainly concern about a tough budget and what this would mean for small business. At this stage, we are pleasantly surprised and look forward to a constructive relationship with our new government. The same applies to our relationship with Clarence Valley Council. A new General Manager has been appointed and we look forward to developing a close and constructive relationship for the year ahead.

I would like to acknowledge the close relationship between our chamber and the NSW Business Chamber. It is great to see John Murray's team thriving and the support they provide to business and our members really strengthens the whole Business Chamber organization and provides a strong service to all members.

The past year has seen our chamber providing business input to a number of committees. We have been actively involved in the Summerland way group, Grafton Bridge, and the Pacific Highway. We have met with Council in relation to a range of issues that are important for the business community and our members. We are playing an active role on the business rates committee and hope to provide council with a workable and equitable business rating model for the future.

On the local front, we have been active in promoting local business through both the "buy local" campaign and the "local food" promotion. To this extent, I would like to thank the media for their support in this area. The Examiner, the Clarence Valley Review and 2GF have all been very supportive in their promotion of local business.

Our city revolves around a number of significant events - Jacaranda, Grafton Races, Bridge to Bridge and the like. The most recent event Gate to Plate was a gala event. These events bring many visitors to our city and provide a significant economic benefit. One of these events - Artsfest - Has brought many visitors and contributed greatly and I would like to pay tribute to Fay Boyd and her crew for their work over the years. This is the last artsfest and I would like to think that the chamber can assist in ensuring that this continues in some form.

One of the indicators of whether or not an organization is performing and delivering is its membership and over the past three years, our membership has grown from around 70 to 150. This is largely due to the work of our Executive Officer. Thank you James for all of your hard work. We would not be able to provide the service to our members without your work.

I would like to thank Caringa for hosting our office and our meetings and finally, I would like to thank all members for their support through the year, especially our hard working executive who give their time to ensure that our business community receive a voice where needed.

Jeremy Challacombe President,
Grafton Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Grafton Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Office : PO Box 502, Grafton 2460
Ph (02) 6642 6183 Fax (02) 6642 1272
Executive Officer
James Patterson Mob/Txt 0457 768 641

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Jeremy Challacombe (President) | 6642 3336 |
| Noel Smith (Vice President) | 6643 5551 |
| Janet Ocholla (Secretary) | 6642 6183 |
| Glenn Thompson (Treasurer) | 6642 7555 |
| Phil Belletty | 0419 884 001 |
| Alan Masson | 6640 3089 |
| Sandy Stewart | 0411 845 290 |
| Greg Hayes | 6642 7770 |
| Liza Bloomer | 0407 297 764 |
| Cllr Craig Howe (Council Representative) | 0418 845 201 |

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**

MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL PROGRAM FOR THE VALLEY



Midnight Basketball is a national social inclusion program to help young people identify and embrace positive opportunities. With a "No Work-Shop, No Jump-Shot" slogan, this innovative program is designed to engage teenagers in a safe and motivating environment, and has proven popular in a number of centres across Australia.

Designed for youth between the ages of 12 to 18, the tournament will run for eight weeks from 7.00 pm to 11.30 pm on Friday nights, with all participants safely home by midnight. Teams are given a healthy dinner, complete a life-skills workshop, and play tournament basketball over the course of the evening. The program and workshops are highly structured, with a focus on life skills and job readiness. Transport home from the venue is also provided.

"The idea of the program is to give kids something fun, safe and positive to do on a Friday night," said Councillor Craig Howe, chairman of the Midnight Basketball Committee. It provides a high energy, positive solution to the boredom and disruption caused by having nothing to do at the weekend.

The Midnight Basketball Tournament is set to "tip-off" on the 21st October in Grafton, and in February 2012 in Yamba.

Volunteers are sought to assist, contact Deborah Stafford, Council's Community Development Officer (Safe & Healthy Communities) on 6641 7221.

Clarence Valley Business Excellence Awards 2011 celebrating excellence in local business



CV Business Excellence Awards Sept 2011

A well attended and presented evening, with a broad cross section of competitors and winners across the whole Valley. "Bravo/Brava" to the entire organising committee, and John Murray from the NSW Business Chamber was an entertaining MC. The venue, Yamba Golf and Country Club was an excellent choice, great food, wines by Yellow Tail wineries, and entertainment by Maclean High students and band, Bigger than Hur. Congratulations to all winners, particularly Grafton Chamber member **Complete Staff Solutions** who took out the Best Professional Business (under 5 staff) AND the Workplace Safety Award. Below GM of Complete Staff Solutions Stephen Jolly with the two Grafton awards.



Tursa Employment & Training

Your Regional
Employment
& Training
Services
Provider

Need Staff? Need Work?

call 1800 670 914

Need Training?

call 1800 266 425

www.tursa.com.au

YAMBA 22 Coldstream Street

Ph. (02) 6646 1568 Fax (02) 6646 1757

Email: tursa.yamba@tursa.com.au

MACLEAN 48 River Street

Ph. (02) 6645 5111 Fax (02) 6645 5979

Email: tursa.maclean@tursa.com.au

GRAFTON 92 Fitzroy Street

Ph. (02) 6643 5200 Fax (02) 6643 3500

Email: tursa.grafton@tursa.com.au

**NO
FEES!**

Job Services Australia

people • skills • jobs

AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Join and Support the Chamber Support YOU!

CHAMBER AGM

Summary Wed 21/09/11

- ◆ The President welcomed members and guests, The Mayor Richie Williamson, Councillors Karen Toms, Margaret McKenna, Ian Dinham, John Murray NSW Business Chamber and Tony Zellig of NORBEC. Apologies were given.
- ◆ The updated constitution was previously circulated to all members on a number of occasions, and having no comments or amendments, and none from the floor, was formally put and adopted by the meeting.
- ◆ The President gave his report, including thanking the work of the outgoing Executive Board and the Executive Officer.
- ◆ The Treasurer gave his report, and presented on behalf of Derek Aldren of AC Small Maxwell the audit for the last financial year.
- ◆ The Executive Officer gave his report.
- ◆ John Murray was invited to take the chair, and he declared all positions on the Executive Board vacant. Having received one nomination for each of the positions on the Executive board (now 9 members due to constitutional change), he declared that no election was required and each of the positions filled and duly appointed.
- ◆ Matters from the floor for the incoming board were called, and discussion on improving the relationship between Shoppingworld and the "City Centre Traders" ensued.
- ◆ Meeting closed.

Our AGM at Vines was a very enjoyable evening, with business people joined by Councillors, and regional business service representatives. The evening began with a wine tasting from Yellow Tail Wineries, who had some delicious red, white and fortified wines. The short AGM meeting (including the election of the 9 member Executive committee and adoption of the Constitution) was followed by main course. The opening speaker, John Murray of the NSW Business Chamber gave an excellent overview of the NSW Business Chamber and the alliance membership program, including Grafton Chamber member benefits. This was followed by deserts and an excellent and interesting presentation by Ian Dinham, in his role as Chair of the Flood Management Association, who gave a comparison between river flooding and mitigation techniques in Grafton NSW and Grafton USA as well as a history and possible projections for future floods.

The next Chamber event is a Breakfast Network Event to be held at the GDSC in Grafton. This is a **free breakfast** sponsored by the NSW Business Chamber. All Clarence Valley small businesses are invited to



meet and speak to the newly appointed NSW Small Business Commissioner, Yasmin King, as part of her 'Giving small business a big voice' listening tour.

The Small Business Commissioner will be visiting Northern Rivers on Wednesday 19th October to hear firsthand from local small businesses the challenges they face in operating their businesses and what role the NSW Government can play in the delivering of programs, services and other assistance to benefit the small business sector. Arrive 6.45 am all welcome. [RSVP www.nswbusinesschamber.com.au](http://www.nswbusinesschamber.com.au) or call 13 26 96

WELCOME to our newest or renewing members
Janelle Saffin MP, Chemist Warehouse,
The Brushgrove Hotel, Ada and Flynn Pharmacy

JACARANDA SURVEY SOON

With funding support from Clarence Valley Council, the Jacaranda Festival committee is conducting an Economic Impact Survey of this year's Festival. The Grafton Chamber of Commerce will distribute a link for an on line Business Survey to the Business Community asking about this year's Festival. Your support in completing the survey will help shape the Festival in years to come, and advise the Committee on aims and achievements.

Grafton Farmers & Growers Market



7am – 12 noon every Thursday at Market Square

For More information: www.clarence.nsw.gov.au

Book a Stall: 6642 3336

WorkCover recently held a second series of online seminars providing an overview of the new *Work Health and Safety Act*, which will be introduced in January 2012. If you missed these informative sessions they are now available to view as online recordings. Simply click on the links below to view each topic.

- [OHS Amendment Act 2011](#)
- [Small business](#)
- [Health & Safety Representatives](#)
- [Officers](#)

Please note that first-time visitors may need to register with GoToWebinar in order to view the recordings.

2011 WorkCover Assist Grants

In 2011 the WorkCover Assist Grants Program provided funding to external consultants to develop training resources on the high level changes to the model work health and safety (WHS) legislation. The two training courses on the model Work Health and Safety Act are now available. The courses can be tailored to meet the needs of the workplace and may be delivered as separate modules or as an entire course.

Employer training course

The training resources consist of a [facilitator's guide](#) and [PowerPoint presentations](#).

Worker training course

The training resources consist of [PowerPoint presentations](#), [facilitator's guide](#), [fact sheets](#) and [participants handouts](#). Call 13 10 50 for more information about the WorkCover Assist Grants Program.



Chamber at Ulmarra Network Meeting

Our September network meeting was held at Ulmarra, as an opportunity to make and develop links between the two business communities.

Andrew Hegedus and his team at Wide River Cafe hosted a delicious supper, and a mild evening had everyone chatting in the courtyard. We had representatives from many businesses including banking, employment services, the Grafton Gallery, Australian Apprenticeships and Council.



Do you need Staff?

We can pay their first 6 months wages.*



www.keyemployment.com.au

achieve anything...

*Conditions apply

Employment, training & assessment services



Call Blake today **1300 KEY JOBS**
5 3 9 5 6 2 7

NORTEC Board of Directors Expressions of Interest

NORTEC Employment and Training Ltd is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation the primary activities of which are provided direct assistance to disadvantaged and marginalised members of the Community.

NORTEC is seeking Expressions of Interest from community members who are interested in becoming a member of NORTEC's Board of Directors. The position is voluntary, however reasonable costs, including travel and accommodation are covered as part of the role.

To express interest send a maximum of a one page professional experience CV and a one page covering letter to Belinda.hall@nortecLtd.com.au, (Company Secretary) detailing how you may contribute to the NORTEC Board of Directors and the ongoing growth and success of NORTEC by 31 October 2011. If you require further information regarding NORTEC Employment and Training Limited call Paul Bennett, Chief Executive Officer, at our head office in South Tweed on 07 5507 3000.

News from other Organisations NORBEC, Clarence Valley Council, Arts Northern Rivers

Music Industry Research

A report released in September by accounting firm Ernst & Young shows that live music in the pubs and clubs of Australia makes an enormous contribution to the economy. We ask three local music industry professionals for their take on the importance of the small live gig circuit. [Read more...](#)

The Hive

Arts Northern Rivers creative arts portal The Hive was launched in September and already has more than 40 members. Check out the profiles of some of this region's best creative practitioners, and why not join up yourself? It's free. [Read More...](#)

New Art and Disability Officer

Accessible Arts have appointed an Art and Disability Officer to deliver their new Creating Connections: Arts and Disability North Coast project. Julie Barratt, formerly of Barratt Galleries, will start mid October, working from the Arts Northern Rivers office. [Read more...](#)

Vacancies

Applications are now open for the position of Chief Executive Officer/Regional Arts Development Officer based at Arts Northern Rivers' offices in Alstonville. Contact Natalie Bull, Arts Northern Rivers Office Coordinator/Arts Development Assistant, 02 6628 8120 or info@artsnorthernrivers.com.au, for an application package.. Applications close 5pm Friday October 7, 2011

There are also three positions available at [NORPA](#). [Read more...](#)

Community Building Partnership 2011

The NSW Government's Community Building Partnership (CBP) program provides funds for

community groups and local councils to invest in community infrastructure throughout the State. Community organisations and local councils are once again encouraged to apply for funding to build and improve community facilities in their local area. Grant funding of up to \$300,000 is available for every electoral district with an additional \$100,000 for the forty eight electorates previously identified with higher unemployment rates. 14 September 2011—Applications open, 24 October 2011—Closing date for registration of Organisation by Applicants, 31 October 2011—Applications close. See website: <http://www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au/>

Review into Shop Trading Provisions of the Retail Trading Act 2008 (From NORBEC)

The Minister for Finance and Services has requested that NSW Industrial Relations review the current regulation of retail trading laws. The Terms of Reference for the review focus on the complexity of the current scheme and its impact on retail businesses as well as consumers and employees.

The Minister wishes to ensure that any decisions about the future operation of retail trading in NSW are informed by the views and comments of interested business persons and organisations. The [Discussion Paper](#) has been prepared in order to elicit your views and comments. Views on the matters raised in the paper are welcome from all people interested in these issues and particularly those groups and individuals that may be directly impacted by any change to the shop trading restrictions imposed by the *Retail Trading Act 2008*. You are invited to provide comments on the questions raised in this Discussion Paper by **24 October 2011**.



AFSL No. 246521

At Westlawn we've got you covered?

As an Insurance Broker, we have access to a wide range of insurers and products and can help you assess your individual needs, ensuring you have the right level of cover for **all types of insurance**. Call today for a **FREE quote**.

22 Queen St, Grafton - 6642 0488 26 Yamba St, Yamba - 6603 3660

Westlawn
INSURANCE BROKERS PTY LTD

Well Covered

www.westlawn.com.au



Changes on Prince St

The long awaited opening of Cotton On in the old Mackellys store is to take place Friday 7th October. It will be an exciting addition to the main street, and a great attraction to draw more shoppers into Prince St. This is a "department store" layout of their key brand businesses (we believe their first superstore) and have brought down senior staff from Queensland businesses to help set up and train—giving more to our local economy.

Adam and Kristen have opened their new Telstra BUSINESS CENTRE in the old BCU site. This store is dedicated to business telecommunication solutions—personal and paying bills etc will still be at their Shoppingworld location. An official opening will take place in November—so keep an eye out for your invite!

And the renovations are well underway at Retravision! The Prince St is abuzz!

Join the Grafton Chamber of Commerce & Industry Membership just \$130



SUPER CLINIC TO OPEN SOON!

The new local Manager, Nathan Riseley has invited all local businesses who can offer supplies or services to the new Super Clinic to contact him, as the company prefers to source supplies locally where possible. He also hopes that the clinic will be "soft" open in the next few weeks, with an official opening in November.

The clinic is based on a care plan model with a particular interest in collaborative care for chronic illness—diabetes, chronic pain, etc. The clinical team share the database so the patient's records and care plan can be updated and co-ordinated easily. While two local GPs will transfer their local business to the clinic, there will be another 5 new medical staff moving to Grafton especially for the clinic. The clinic has vacancies for other medical staff—and are especially looking for a dietician, optometrist and/or psychologist to join the team.

Enquiries to Nathan : gmc@ochrehealth.com.au

MEGT Australian Apprenticeships Centre is your first point of contact for advice and information on apprenticeships and traineeships—referred to as Australian Apprenticeships.

They provide a FREE comprehensive and streamlined service to employers by managing all administrative issues relating to employing apprenticeships and traineeships.

Services include:

- ◆ Innovative on-line management system available 24 hours a day
- ◆ Expert advice on apprenticeships and traineeships that suit your needs,
- ◆ Payment and assessment of staff eligibility for employer incentives—from \$1250 to \$4000 plus additional special incentives where applicable,
- ◆ Assistance with funding options of Australian Apprenticeship with a disability,
- ◆ Information sessions for management and staff,
- ◆ Registration of your apprentice with State Training Authority,
- ◆ A dedicated account manager
- ◆ Assistance in sourcing training providers

Contact Claire Carter of MEGT on
Ph: 02 6691 9888, Mobile: 0428 882 673
 or claire.carter@megt.com.au for more.



mazda

**Ken Casson
Motors**

37-39 Turf St
GRAFTON

Phone
6642 6666

www.
kencasson
.com.au



HOLDEN

The Daily Examiner



Over \$36,000 spent on a Wedding! promoting Clarence Valley businesses and Weddings have become a very high cost encourages internet shoppers to source process. The recent Wedding Expo local business products and services. organised by the Daily Examiner at the This is certainly a business area that South Services Club had business stands Grafton and the Valley is well placed as a from a range of services—printers, location (between Sydney and Brisbane), etchers, makeup and hair, wedding-party aesthetically (beaches, bush, gardens, dresses and suit hire, celebrants, homes) and can offer a quality regional photographers, venues, car hire, experience with the range of businesses honeymoons, accommodation, cake to back it up. Some co-ordination and co makers, gifts. Yoohoo offer a "Wedding" -operation could see the Valley as the website which provides a one stop site NSW North Coast Wedding Destination.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE? - Disability Employment Options

In March this year, the University of New England's National Disability Coordination Officer held a forum to build and improve networks between the school, community, tertiary and employment sectors in order to improve education and employment outcomes for people with a disability. Some of the results of a small sample survey attached to the program are below. For more info contact Leonie Kennedy Leonie.kennedy@une.edu.au

Do you have concerns around employing a person with additional needs?

Yes 50.0% No 44.4%

If Yes, are they How to recruit? 5.6% How to incorporate them into your business i.e. what role? 38.9%

Who to turn to if there are concerns or issues? 27.8% How other staff will react? 5.6% Other? 5.6%



Job in Jeopardy Program

Replacing a valuable employee can be difficult and costly. At CHESS we provide a special service to help employers retain existing workers who become ill or injured. We have a number of successful outcomes so far and believe we can help many more. CHESS provides free information, advice and support to the worker and the employer to ensure employment is maintained. Contact CHESS for more information. We are here to help.

Grafton 6644 3222
Yamba 6646 8911



Do you employ people with additional needs?

Yes 61.1% No 38.9%

If yes, what has been your experience? 27.8/61.1 responded

Do you believe your business is ready to employ people with additional needs?

Yes 50.0% No 44.4% No response 5.6%

Would you employ a person with any of the following additional needs?

Hearing Impairment? 50.0%

Visual Impairment? 38.9%

Physical Impairment? 72.2%

Mental Health Issues? 38.9%

Intellectual Disability? 50.0%

No I wouldn't be interested in employing a person with these additional needs 22.2%

These results are presented to highlight to potential employers that the job placement industry understands your concerns (they are similar to other employers) and can assist you to access incentive schemes and work with and support your business to employ new staff.