



Newsletter

CONTACT Email : office@GraftonChamber.org.au

June 2011

Diary Dates

Networking the Clarence

Wed 8th June 5.30 pm
\$5.00 per head All welcome
Maclean Hotel
River St, Maclean

Chamber Breakfast

Wed 15th June 700 am to 8.30 am
Guest Speaker Albert Julum ACCC
Cafe Graffity
The Link (Prince St end) Grafton
All welcome \$150 Chamber Members
\$18 Non members RSVP for catering

Careers Expo 2011

Thurs 16th June 10 am to 3 pm
Grafton TAFE All welcome

Next Chamber Meeting

Wed 22nd June 5.30 pm
All members welcome
Caringa Enterprises room
Through St, South Grafton

Coming Events for Grafton

Grafton Weekend of Trucking

11th to 13th June, 2011

Grafton Race Week

7th to 17th July, 2011
See CRJC website for details

8th to 11th September, 2011

Coffs World Rally Rally website

Grafton Festival of Music & Art

Contact James to participate

Grafton Festival of Music and Arts Thurs 8th to Sun 11th Sept 2011

In an attempt to attract attention and business to the Grafton area during the World Rally in Coffs in September, the Grafton Chamber, with Grafton TAFE's Tourism students, have been speaking and organising with local pubs, hotels, restaurants and leisure venues to host a range of activities and entertainments under the umbrella of "Grafton Festival of Music and Arts". The event will showcase a range of things to do or places to see after watching the day's rally, or for Mum and the kids, looking for something different on the weekend. Venues are being asked to organise an event that weekend, whether band, DJ, theme night, display or activity; and include it free in the guide that will be marketed to ticket purchasers, accommodation and information sites associated with the race as well as the regional community.

We have had a lot of enthusiasm and already have the basis of a strong program of events and activities. We have been lucky to have Spring into Skinner St and the Gate to Plate events being held on this weekend, plus Pro Musica are hosting the percussion group Synergy. Pubs and restaurants are offering a band or a duo and dining or theme nights. We have a youth Hip Hop Spectacular on the Friday. We have a strong Children's activity program, with activities in Shoppingworld, Gate 2 Plate's Markets and Children's treasure hunt and I Scream's Rock and Roll Beach Party planned, as well as our venues such as Saraton and Grafton Tenpin Bowl. More acts and activities are being added daily.

The Grafton TAFE Tourism students have embraced this project with a passion, speaking to business owners, and planning details and designing programs to market the event.

Please email James at office@GraftonChamber.org.au for more details or to have your event that weekend added. Lets put Grafton on the map for the World Rally event!

yoohoo
web & graphic design

Two reasons why you should learn to tap dance...

- 1) Learning something new is great for an active & alert mind
- 2) Regular exercise improves your mood and it's great fun!

*Call Kristen on 0402 0907 24 to chat about times
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2011 CLARENCE VALLEY
CAREERS EXPO

GRAFTON TAFE CAMPUS
THURSDAY 16TH JUNE 2011
10AM - 3PM





Grafton Chamber's Activities and Events

From the Presidents Desk...

Welcome to winter. The cold season is now upon us, and hopefully, it will bring less rain and beautiful days.

The downside of winter is rising energy costs. More electricity and gas used for heating, Given the increases in charges, this is of real concern to all and will certainly add significantly to the already high costs of running a business.

Grafton show is over for another year. Congratulations to Alan and his team for providing a quality show that highlights what is produced in the Clarence Valley and also provides and opportunity for our local trades to display what they have on offer.

June also marks the end of the financial year. It has been a tight year for many, and let us hope that the future will improve.

It is disturbing to hear yet again about the concerns regarding our local air service. The impact of losing our air service would have a significant adverse impact on

Grafton. The problem comes down to Grafton/Taree/Sydney being seen as an uneconomical service. The Chamber has expressed their concerns to REX in the past and will continue to make representations to see how the problem can be overcome. Perhaps a different timetable could be considered. Whatever, it comes down to our support of the airline to ensure this service continues.

It is pleasing to see our "shop local" campaign continuing and comments in relation to this programme have been very positive

The advisory committee looking at the Clarence Valley business rating system has now met on a couple of occasions, and whilst things will not happen overnight, I am positive that progress is being made to develop an improved system of business rating and look forward to the outcome of this group

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

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](mailto:) or phone the Chamber on **6642 6183**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jeremy Challacombe (President)	6642 3336
Noel Smith	
(Vice President)	6643 5551
Janet Ocholla	
(Secretary)	6642 6183
Glenn Thompson (Treasurer)	6642 7555
Ray Chesher	6642 6183
Alan Masson	6640 3089
Sandy Stewart	0411 845 290
Cllr Craig Howe (Council Representative)	0418 845 201

ATO information on hobby and business definition

Information the Australian Tax Office has received suggests that a number of new to business people may not actually be engaged in a business activity and are better defined as a hobby activity and may be incorrectly claiming GST input credits and other deductions.

To check whether you should be defined as either a hobby or business, refer to these links to two pages on the ATO website.

Am I in business? <http://www.ato.gov.au/content/66884.htm> How to tell whether you are in business, and why it matters whether or not your activity is defined as a business

Free and helpful tax assistance - no strings attached <http://www.ato.gov.au/content/77828.htm> This page provides information about various forms of tax assistance for small business. Also explaining what a free business assistance visit is and how to request one.

Industrial land promotion

The Department of Trade and Investment and the Dept of Regional Infrastructure and Services have sponsored the Country & Regional Living Expo since 2004. The Expo is a showcase of country and regional communities and is targeted at encouraging business investors and people moving to regional NSW. It is held at the Rosehill Racecourse Grand Pavilion, 5 - 7 August 2011. This year the Dept is funding an **Industrial land promotion** for the Expo and they have seven sites available for communities or businesses or developers interested in promoting Businesses for Sale Industrial land for Sale or Development

For more information, contact the organiser Peter Bailey, on 02 6771 5633 or 0428 724 790, or email ceo@frdl.org.au. See www.frdl.org.au

Invest in Grafton's Future By Shopping Local

The Shop local campaign is building steam, the logo is being found all over Grafton, and very positive comments have been made. If you haven't got

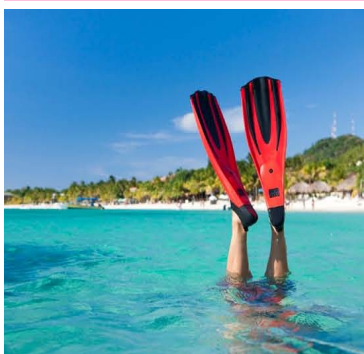
your logo in your window or till, contact James, or collect one from Noel at Low Pressure Surf Company.

The closure of businesses is always sad, no matter if they are 97 years old or a few years old. While Grafton is facing a difficult time, particularly in the retail economy, and suffering from both the global financial crisis and reduced employment locally, it is worth remembering that a number of businesses have opened, renovated, and new businesses have continued to grow.



We have seen major investment by Trevor Ellem in Buckley's Music, in both new premises and stock expansion, Noel at Low Pressure Surf Company has invested in renovations, Vi's new Hot Bread Bakery has been receiving praise, Michael has recently purchased

Cobbler's Corner and built up the business to include trophies, other recent additions include Black Pepper, the Tattoo Parlour, Phoenix Leathers, Impulsive Creations (Ex Telstra Call Centre staff) and Gone FishN, and in the near future we should see Tim's new Menswear Store, and rumours indicate a business to business service will open soon in the old Prince St BCU building! Vacant shops often enable new businesses to start in the area. Buy local, spend local and you are investing in both existing business and the future.



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Join and Support the Chamber Support YOU!

Internet, Social Networking, Websites and Marketing

WED 20th July—mark your diary

The Chamber is organising a series of workshops, presentations and displays for **Wed 20th July** to advise, support or extend business's marketing, opportunities and sales using the internet and websites. Local business will face more competition over the internet for local custom, and the region needs to attract 'outside' money to maintain local viability and meet competition.

The Chamber will present a day of key local and interstate speakers, including lunchtime speaker Ian Peters on *Creating Environments for Innovation* - what we can learn from the Internet and how we can use it, and breakfast speaker Catherine Healey of APN Australian Regional Media (ARM) on a range of issues including business impact from online, how to keep track of this ever-changing digital environment and Social Media.

The format will offer breakfast and lunch speaker sessions, plus morning and/or afternoon sessions. Participants can select to attend one session or the whole day. If you are developing your website, considering a strategy or want to look at new and innovative ideas and mingle with like minded businesses this is the opportunity. More information will follow with a full program.

WELCOME to our newest
or returning members

Gone FishN Black Auto Cafe Graffity

Membership renewals will be sent out this month, also any outstanding receipts for individual businesses that may have not been sent or collected at the time. In the mail out is also a sign up for the NSW Business Chamber support package. Our Chamber website has more information on the free services to all our members available through NSW BC. Please complete both forms, as both organisations require a "membership" form to meet legislation.

We have also been busy with two major projects—the Careers Expo for 16th June and the World Rally "Music Festival" marketing project for early September. Both are co-operative ventures with local businesses and members. The Careers Expo, in its second year, will provide a valuable resource for our local youth and unemployed. The Music Festival will promote the venues and offer of Grafton to a visiting population looking for things to do. We hope this will prove successful. Even though it is a low cost activity, it already has produced valuable experience and understanding of event organising with a class of young tourism students at Grafton TAFE. Our thanks to Pip Hough and Grafton TAFE for providing both assistance and opportunity.

See you all at the Breakfast on Wed 15th June at Cafe Graffity, in the Link starting 7 am, which includes a guest speaker, Albert Julum of the ACCC who will update businesses owners and managers on a range of issues, including scams and legislation.

The Grafton Career Expo 2011 is almost here. Thursday 16th June, 10 am to 3pm. This is as a result of the commitment and hard work of Lainie Edwards of the Daily Examiner, Laurie Erskine of TAFE North Coast, Wendy Bruszewski of Grafton TAFE, Emma Hannah of Youth Directions and yours truly. We have been given a lot of local support, not least the staff at the schools, local business for the loan of marquees and other items, plus local businesses

hosting stands. The organising committee feel that this event is important for the Valley's youth, to lose it not only means they must travel to Lismore or Coffs, but also suffer less opportunity compared to other students. These businesses and staff have dedicated time and resource to see that does not happen. Our sincere thanks for their true community spirit.

For more information contact James Patterson at office@GraftonChamber.org.au.



one cup's not enough..

to read through an edition of the
Clarence Valley Review

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news and sports articles every week it's
the read of your life

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Yamba-126 Yamba Rd,
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clarence valley **Review** *the leader in local news*
The Review is a Community Organisation

New Member Business Profile

Gone FishN

Damen And Lorraine

Damen and Lorraine are the new owners of Gone Fish'N at 87 Fitzroy St Grafton. Damen has worked in retail, plumbing, the Armed Forces and then renovating homes and offices in Central West NSW. Lorraine "retired" after 30 years in Administration and Business Management and has found she has been busier than before she "retired"!

Damen's passion for travelling & fishing has taken him near all around Australia - with Lorraine in tow. These travels have brought them to Grafton where they have fallen in love with the Clarence Valley and been warmly welcomed into the community.



Damen and Lorraine run the business with their dog Elly Mae. Elly's position in the business is the "Meet & Greet officer" and she is a permanent fixture in the shop doorway - she loves a pat as you enter the shop.

Both Damen and Lorraine are very customer service orientated and they have made a few changes to the shop, many suggested by their customers. They have a good array of rods, reels and tackle on display and have very competitive prices. Damen has continued with the service of rod and reel repairs. Damen also makes custom rods to his client's requirements, call in and find out just how affordable it is. Ph 6642 2325 to find out more.



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From now until 8th June businesses or staff members can apply for a part of

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The training scholarship is available for certain industries only. Please read the guidelines for further details.

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Sandy

Sandy Stewart JP

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Clarence Valley Business Excellence Awards

2011 celebrating excellence in local business

2011 Clarence Valley Business Excellence Awards Closing 1st July !

The 2011 Clarence Valley Business Excellence Awards are open for entries from all Clarence regional businesses.

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your business to the whole Clarence Valley through lodging an entry. Various media opportunities are being developed to highlight the Awards, and it presents an excellent opportunity to network with the many guests that support and attend the presentation night.

The great thing is that you can enter the awards yourself. You do not require a nomination. If you do need some assistance or further information just contact Felicity Watson, the Awards Coordinator on **0432 672 265**, or email felicity.watson@gmail.com.

Changes to OHS and Work Health and Safety Legislation for Jan 2012



Beverley Jackson, Business Advisory Officer with WorkCover NSW in Coffs Harbour has advised us that an OHS Act amendment Bill and WHS Act Bill were passed through the upper house of the NSW Parliament. While details are not at hand at time of print, this will see harmonisation of WorkCover regs and rules with National legislation, reduce red tap and clarify accountability for businesses owners and directors. More detail will be provided when available.

To request a free advisory visit for one-on-one advice specific to your needs, click on the logo above and go to Advisory Visits or call 131050. To talk about any issues or concerns you may have with Beverley of the Business Assistance Branch, feel free to call her on **02 6659 1706**



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Look out for our Telstra Business Centre opening soon in the Grafton CBD.

Meanwhile call us on **66428 333** to arrange an Appointment.

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Phone: 02 6642 8333 | Fax: 02 6642 8588

BUSINESS



103.1 Life FM has re-invented itself as Grafton's new music station. New logo New sound.



Life FM will undergo a face lift this month. We will be playing the latest releases from a host of Australian recording artists. We are proud of our music industry and one third of 103.1 Life FM daytime list will be Aussies from locals to the big names. We'll play the latest A.R.I.A charts top fifty minus the smut that has flooded the music industry to the point where radios are being turned off to avoid a barrage of foul language, songs that degrade woman, songs that promote drug use, excess drinking and explicit sexual references. We feel that music should inspire us not drag us down to a base level so some rapper can make another million.

Another group of artists that suffer from neglect or prejudice are musicians 'dismissed' as "Christian artists" - groups like P.O.D. and Switchfoot to solo performers like Toby Mac. These artists are pumping out some of the best contemporary rock music going. Their faith makes these songs lyrics strong with a heart for the underdog, always with something relevant to say. We want to bring you the best of these performers too.

Being a community station allows us to respond to what the community is saying they want. It also allows access for local's to come in and do their own shows—be it singer, songwriter, blues or country. If you want to showcase your "collection of big bands of the thirties" we will find a spot for you every Saturday. We do want community involvement.

We also need announcers. The music we have is good. People ring up to find out who the artists are. It would be much better to have a local behind the mike bringing the music and news to our local area. And don't forget 103.1 Life FM is the station that gives you the local sports results and live broadcasts the local rugby league.

The Station also needs business sponsorship and is offering packages that include five by thirty second announcements about your business per week day, with spots allocated in the live football broadcast and in the Clarence scoreboard and in any speciality shows. Contact the Station President Steve Muir on 6642 4780 or email admin@1031lifefm.com for more information.



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
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Grafton Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Membership just \$130 to June 2012



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