

# Newsletter

CONTACT Email : [office@GraftonChamber.org.au](mailto:office@GraftonChamber.org.au)



Grafton Chamber of  
Commerce & Industry

December 2010

## Diary Dates

### Rally Australia Community Forum

Tues 14th December 5.30 pm

Information about

Coffs Car Rally Sept 2011

All Welcome *RSVP* Gold coin donation

The Cathedral Meeting rooms

Duke St, Grafton ([see page 5](#))

### Chamber Christmas Party

All welcome "Bring a Friend"

Thurs 16th Dec from 5.30 pm

Members FREE, Non Members \$10

The Blue Goose, Junction Hill

Transport available (see right)

### Next Chamber Meeting

Wed 19th January 5.30 pm

All members welcome

[Caringa Enterprises](#) room

Through St, South Grafton

### Fair Work Seminar

Thurs 20th January 9.30 -11.30 am

All Welcome *RSVP* Gold coin donation

The Cathedral Meeting rooms

Duke St, Grafton ([see page 3](#))

## MAJOR EVENTS

### Christmas Concert

10th December from 4 pm

Market Square

Organiser Martin 0407 700 805.

### Monster Energy ProWake

Show and Bridge to Bridge

Weekend, 14/15/16th January

Main Event Sunday from 4 pm

Clarence River

## News and Features Summary

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

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

Moved from Tweed/Kyogle to Coffs region, these five rallies over the next five years offer economic opportunities to Grafton. The Rally Organisers will hold a presentation in Grafton from 5.30 pm on 14th December. [More Page 5](#)

### Fair Work Information Seminars for Retail and Hospitality Businesses on 20th Jan, 2011 from 9.30 to 11.30 am. More information: [GO TO Page 3](#)

### Chamber Membership Drive. "Bring a Friend"

The work of the Chamber continues to gather strength, with newsletters, information seminars and network meetings. 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 December will receive a free 1/4 page advertorial in the Chamber newsletter in the month of your choosing during 2011!. [Email James](#) or print off a membership form from our website [WWW.GraftonChamber.org.au](http://WWW.GraftonChamber.org.au)

### Chamber Christmas Party. 14th December 5.30pm, The Blue Goose, Junction Hill. All Welcome! [RSVP](#)

The Grafton Chamber's this year will be held on Thursday 16th December at The Blue Goose Hotel, starting at 5.30 pm. We will have door prizes, display stands and networking. Members FREE and Non Members \$10. Subsidized bar and nibbles. Also if you would like to arrange collection or drop off from the Courtesy bus, please [RSVP James](#). Stands Available \$30 [email James](#)

### Also in this Newsletter

[Christmas Windows and Wrapping](#)

[Calstar/Resco Trade Night pics](#)

[Car Rally:What can Grafton do?](#)

[Newsletter Advertising](#)

[Model Work Health & Safety](#)

[Legislation 2011](#)



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# Grafton Chamber's Activities and Events

## From the Presidents Desk...

Welcome to the festive season. Another year has passed and we are about to embark on 2011. Things have been pretty tight in the business sector over the past few months. Let us hope that things pick up over the Christmas period and that 2011 is a better year.

It is pleasing to see that our Council has not gone ahead with the proposed rate rise at this time. One thing that was vocally expressed though, was the anomaly in relation to business rates within our one Council area. Unfortunately, there are a number of people who wish to continue in the past and blame Grafton for overspending or Maclean for not providing enough services. This gets us no-where. We are now one Council and it is critical that we look forward and work together to ensure our Clarence Valley, its towns and villages and our rural constituents all share in the development, prosperity and life style to which we all aspire. To this extent, your chamber is hoping to meet with Councillors and the other Chambers to see how we can move forward in this regard.

The need for a new Grafton Bridge seems to be a never ending saga. Most people recognise the need for a new bridge, are confused by the mixed messages put out by the bureaucrats in the RTA. The feeling appears to be that we want to explore

wider options, maybe put a bridge on the outskirts of the city and develop a ring road system to service the city as well as allowing for through traffic, and hopefully, alleviating the worsening morning and afternoon traffic congestion. To this extent, the Chamber, through its Grafton Bridge committee, is hoping to meet with RTA, Council, residents and existing and aspiring politicians to see how we can move forward. We certainly do not want any more hollow promises.

Whilst it has been a tight year in some ways, there have been some bright spots. The Chamber wishes to congratulate the Bendigo Bank for its 10 years service in the area; to thank the Notaras family for their contribution to our city; to thank the Jacaranda committee for yet another great festival, and to thank all of those businesses that have contributed to the well being of our great city.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas get together at the Blue Goose Hotel. Have a very merry Christmas and let us hope for a prosperous New Year.

**Jeremy Challacombe, President.**  
**Grafton Chamber Commerce & 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](#) 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 Cheshier	6642 6183
Alan Masson	6640 3089
Sandy Stewart	0411 845 290
Cllr Craig Howe	0418 845 201
(Council Representative)	

## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES IN GRAFTON



### Christmas Window Retailer Competition

This year's Christmas Lighting Competition includes a special prize for Retail Business with the best window display or lighting.

The Daily Examiner is giving \$500 worth of advertising as the prize to the business judged the winner and all participants will be included on the map. Businesses need to register by the 10th Dec using the application form in the Daily Examiner.

### Christmas Carols in Market Square

Friday 10th December from 4 pm will see Activities, Stalls and from 6 pm Carols in Market Square. Many businesses will be trading until 6 pm that day too. The evening will feature local Church Choirs, School Choirs and talented individuals.

### Solar Powered Fairy Lights Available for Chamber Members

The Chamber has secured 30 solar powered flashing/continuous 3 meter fairy lights. For outdoor use and at \$25 per set (white, blue, purple) stocks won't last. Contact James.

### Christmas Carols at the Saraton

The Saraton has a special Christmas Celebration, including a Carols Night, a screening of "Its a Wonderful Life" and other activities. See the local papers for details.

**5 reasons to join  
the Grafton  
Chamber of  
Commerce & Industry**

## Fair Work Seminar for Grafton 20th Jan 2011

The Grafton Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been asked by a number of businesses to arrange a seminar about the Fair Work legislation. A number of owners in retail and hospitality had questions about casuals working hours, breaks, etc.

Coffs Harbour Fair Work Ombudsman, Jason Rhodes, will hold a two hour seminar on Thursday the 20th January at Grafton Cathedral's meeting rooms between 9.30am and 11.30am. A Gold coin donation is asked for tea/coffee and to cover room hire.

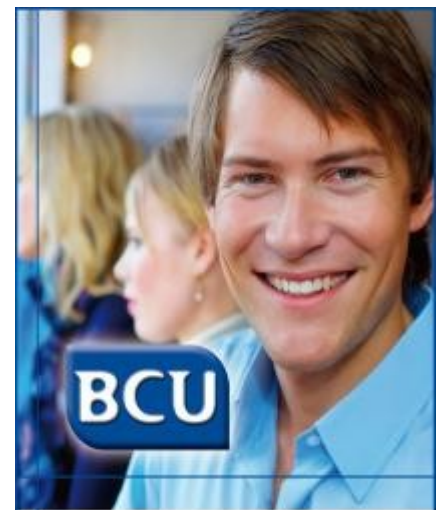
Jason will present an overview on the Fair Work National Employment Standards, and follow up with a question and answer session on areas such as Minimum hours worked, Wage Transitional Arrangements, Breaks, Juniors, the "BOOT" test and Fair dismissal of staff due to economic downturn. Some questions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

In order that the session will be manageable, we are focusing on the Pub/Restaurant/Cafe businesses and Retail Sector to this event. If other awards sectors would like to have an individual seminar, please inform James Patterson, and if sufficient, demand we will organise a similar seminar. If you haven't already, let me know if you will be attending, so we can cater to the correct numbers. [More information email James.](#)

## 2010 BCU Bill Ussher Agricultural Grant



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Website: [www.bluegoosehotel.com.au](http://www.bluegoosehotel.com.au)

## GRAFTON HIRE EQUIPMENT AND PARTY HIRE

*Will Newton Peter Chevalley  
Rod Hill*

71 Spring Street  
South Grafton 2460  
Email: [graftonhire@gmail.com](mailto:graftonhire@gmail.com)

PHONE: (02) 6643 2878  
Fax: (02) 6643 2689

# Join and Support the Chamber Support YOU!

## MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM



## ASSET PLANNING SERVICES

### Phil Belletty

Phil has been involved in the Chamber for four years—and brings over 30 years experience in Government Strategic Management and Planning of infrastructure to our discussions. He has assisted and informed the work of the Chamber on many major issues, including the Grafton Bridge, the Draft LEP consultation and the Summerland Way project.



An active volunteer, Phil represents the Grafton Chamber on the Summerland Way Project travelling between Beaudesert and Coffs to attend meetings. Phil also has extensive experience with remote and indigenous communities throughout the NT, WA, SA and QLD, schools and community councils, as well as operational management. This year, Phil continues to be an active participant on the Executive Committee.

## Latest News from Around Town

Robbie Seymour has linked up with the PRD Real Estate network, closing Remax, however all contact details will remain the same except for the email addresses which now end "@prd.com.au".

Activity taking place in the old Chemist Shop in Prince St will see a Hot Bread business opening around February next year.

The Grafton Bridge is a continuing concern to local residents and businesses—a Community Forum is being held on Thurs 9th Dec. 6.30 pm at the GDSC auditorium

Welcome to Shoppingworld's latest additions, a new cafe in the Link, Cafe Grafitty, Cosmetics Fragrance Direct, and also Gym Beans—Mark Paterson of Purple Haze's latest business venture.

And check out the new murals commissioned of Community Artist Pamela Denise by Caringa Enterprises on their Through St building.

Last Breakfast meeting was held at Alchemy at the Emporium South Grafton. In a departure from previous gatherings, saw a number of short presentations made—from businesses Al's Garden Creations, Rocla Concrete Sleepers, Work Cover's Beverley Jackson and Dept of Immigration's Philomena Leong - who spoke on what employers needed to know before employing someone from overseas. (For a summary click here). Our sincere thanks to members Annie and Peter of Alchemy for a wonderful breakfast and menu.



The Chamber invited author and consultant Hugh Mackay, who has conducted many Government and Private surveys on macro issues facing the Australian People. He spoke about his latest book, a look at "What makes people tick" - the personal qualities that makes up the "Australian individual".

The Chamber was also present at Calstar Bearing's Trade Night at the Racecourse (see page 6)

Our next Chamber Network event will be Our Christmas Party at the Blue Goose, Junction Hill. Members Free, Non Members \$10, including stands, nibbles, subsidized bar and a Courtesy bus. See page one for more.

## WELCOME to our newest or returning members

Calstar Bearings/Resco, J Notaras and Son, McPhee Print, Clarence Valley Home Nursing, Rocla Concrete Sleepers, VideoPowerPlanet.net



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# Coffs Harbour Car Rally 9/10/11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011

Event Briefing Grafton 14th Dec 2010 from 5.30 pm

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. Below are some of the opportunities that Grafton businesses could explore:

**Accommodation** includes hotel, motel and short term housing rentals up to 6 weeks. (event teams prior to main weekend, visitors and spectators for the event, post event extended stays)

**Caravan, camper, farm stays**

**Pubs and restaurants** - visitors and teams prior and during event (races finish approx 4 pm)

**Lock up facilities** for work on vehicles and storing team equipment in lead up to event

**Catering**—teams staying prior to the event would appreciate mobile catering to lock up facilities - saving time and would be an attractive arrangement/offer from Grafton community

**Event planning** - Thursday and Friday evenings of the race weekend will see many people looking for things to do - Grafton region being the first leg can build on this potential, Music at Glenreagh Thursday and/or Friday, music in Grafton during the weekend for visitors/teams

**Associated Events:** there are many corporate events and associated activities beyond the Rally/spectator activities - and suppliers, facilities and resources will be required for these - food, drink, etc will probably be sourced in Coffs (organisers (HQ) but there is no reason Grafton cannot supply many side events and spectator catering activities.

**Co-ordinated activities** - offering a river races/Jet boat event or similar the weekend prior or after the event may hold more people in the area. Similarly Rally Memorabilia, vintage vehicles, Glenreagh Railway, etc would value add the visitors experience.

**Transport** - buses, team transport, tourism transport, stages transport, BBQ tours, after hours customer service, taxis and hire vehicles.

**Event Supplies:** Organisers are looking for **suppliers:** tents and marquees, porta-loos, catering vans, security, waste management, etc, etc *and will provide Grafton Chamber of Commerce and Industry a list of needs so we can list potential suppliers.*

**Medical needs** - a broad range of needs from spectators, teams and emergencies.

**Marketing** - event guides and literature, plus local activity and event sponsorship. Seek methods to attract visitors and money to be spent in Grafton.

Businesses are invited to attend a briefing from the organisers on Tuesday 14th December from 5.30 pm at The Cathedral meeting rooms in Duke St, Grafton (gold coin donation to cover tea/coffee/venue use) All Welcome. Please email James if you will attend for catering purposes. Further information will be distributed as available.

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## Model work health and safety laws

The new occupational health and safety (OHS) reform agenda aims to harmonise OHS legislation across Australia and reduce the incidence of workplace death, injury and disease.

Currently all states, territories and the Commonwealth are responsible for making and enforcing their own OHS laws. Although these draw on a similar approach for regulating workplaces, there are some differences in the application and detail of the laws.

In July 2008, the Council of Australia Governments (COAG) signed an Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in OHS (IGA).

The IGA outlines the commitment of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to work together to develop and implement model legislation. This cooperation is the most effective way to achieve harmonisation of OHS laws in Australia. The IGA commits each government to pass their own laws that mirror the model OHS laws and adopt these laws by December 2011.

The model WHS Act is not significantly different from many current work health and safety laws. Much of it is based on policies that are common to many jurisdictions.

The intention is for each jurisdiction to enact the model provisions, subject to permitted minor variations that are needed to ensure the model provisions are workable in each jurisdiction and interact effectively with local laws without affecting harmonisation.

When the harmonised work health and safety laws are in place across Australia, it will be easier for businesses and workers to comply with their work health and safety responsibilities because the requirements will largely be the same, regardless of how many states and territories they operate in.

<http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au/Legislation/Pages/ModelWHSLegislation.aspx>

### The current timeline is (from the Safe Work Australia website):

- Present:** Model work health and safety (WHS) Regulations, priority model Codes of Practice and a nationally consistent compliance and enforcement policy are being developed
- Late 2010:** Public comment period on the model WHS Regulations package
- April 2011:** Public comment period closes
- June 2011:** Safe Work Australia to agree to model WHS Regulations package
- June 2011:** Workplace Relations Ministers' Council to approve model WHS Regulations package
- January 2012:** Commencement of the Model Work Health and Safety Act and model WHS Regulations.

CHESSE Employment and Support Services can find you the right person and support you with their start up wages (up to six months) Conditions Apply. CHESSE also helps the worker and the employer with: Work gear, Clothing, Work Tickets and On the Job Support if needed.

Phone CHESSE for more information.  
Grafton 6644 3222  
Yamba 6646 8911



## New Business Excellence Awards committee for 2011

The Committee for the 2011 competition has been formed, with Add It Up's Sandy Stewart as Chair, and John Robson as Vice Chair. NSW Business Chamber's Northern Regional Manager John Murray is assisting with advice from the Tweed BEAs to help grow our local Award. Sandy is inviting local Chambers of Commerce and business people to join the committee, to assist in planning and delivering the Awards. If interested or for more details contact Sandy on 0411 845 290



### CALSTAR / RESCO TRADE NIGHT

held recently at the Race Course and organised by Stephen Pearce and the team at Calstar Bearings, and Resco, was a well organised and well attended event, with a huge range of suppliers demonstrating goods available at the Calstar and Resco

outlets, which have become part of BSC Group. Its great to see local traditions will continue under the new ownership. Congratulations Stephen for a well planned, informative and relaxed event; the Racecourse proving a spacious and successful venue.



**FIVE** reasons to join the Grafton Chamber of Commerce & Industry



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