

SHOALHAVEN PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION INC

Breakfast Meeting
7.00am 9 February 2017

Meeting opened 7.30am

1. Welcome and Introductions

Acknowledgement to Country

Dignitaries

- Mayor of Shoalhaven, Councilor Amanda Findley
- Councilor Joanna Gash
- Councilor Patricia White

Guests who have not been to an SPBA meeting before

- Ben Wells – Sanctuary Pt Public School
- Lucy Collett – Lawyer
- Nick Ball and Paula Rey – CBA
- Pete Dunn – GHD

New members

- Jane Curran – GHD – honorary member as Mentoree
- Bohdan Brumerskyj – Professionals Real Estate – honorary member as Mentoree
- Toby Carter – Graphic Designer – honorary member as Mentoree
- Marianne Jones – SCC EDO – honorary member as Mentoree
- Jack Miller – Lawyer – Stacks Heard McEwan - Individual member
- Hanlon Windows – associate membership (not present)

2. Attendance and apologies -

Apologies

- Councilor Nina Cheyne
- Daniel Arthur - CBA
- Michaela Stansfield – Marriott and Oliver
- Jessica Clifford – ABC – Mentoree
- Simon Apperley – SET Consultants
- Lorraine Haywood – Kennedy & Cooke Lawyers – honorary member as Mentoree

3. Special Congratulations

- Joanna Gash - recipient of 2017 Aust Day Honours List – Order of Australia (AM) for services to Parliament of Australia, local government and community of Shoalhaven
Jo is also the Patron and a great supporter of SPBA

4. Upcoming events/projects

- 4.1 Shoalhaven Young Professionals – (Amber Schutz)
- o Lunches on 1st Thurs monthly
 - o Policy in the Pub 5.30pm at Postman's Tavern

4.2 Young Professional Mentor Program – (Rhonda McGuire)

- Mentors (present) were introduced:
 - Robbie Collins
 - Phil Guy
 - Lynette Kearney
 - Rosalie Wood
 - Tania Goodman
 - Anna Finch
 - Jamie McAinsh

- Thank you to the Management Committee of the 2017 Mentoring program:
 - Sue Schofield
 - Robbie Collins
 - Greg Pullen
 - Heather Darlington
 - David Bisiker
 - Steven Bayer and Facilitator Rhonda McGuire

4.3 Compass and Compass + Executive Leadership Program – (Rhonda McGuire)

- This program commences Wed 15 Feb 2017.
- Thank you also to the Management Committee of this program
 - Grant Gleeson
 - Ron Hockey
 - David King
 - Tania Goodman
 - Darren Wearne
 - Steven Bayer and Facilitator Rhonda McGuire

4.4 Professional Snapshot – (Darren Wearne)

This is the 9th Professional Snapshot and will occur on 1 March 2017 with 77 students so far (and three schools yet to advise how many students they have). There are six streams with three businesses represented in each stream. Thank you to all the businesses who are participating.

5. General Business

5.1 Membership Sub Committee

- SPBA has signed an MOU with SCC for annual support and sponsorship.
- Currently Considering membership categories and other factors

5.2 SPBA Survey and Business Plan

- Thank you to those members that completed the survey.
- As a Committee we have listened to your requests, and a Sub Committee will report to the March Committee meeting for how your requests can be incorporated into our Business Plan, events and programs for 2017

5.3 Shoalhaven Defence Industry Group

- Seminar to be held on 16 Feb highlighting opportunities for Shoalhaven businesses to work with Defence Organisations. Greg Pullen asked those professionals present to make their clients aware of this forum so they could attend.

5.4 Shoalhaven Business Forum and SCC Employment and Development Committee

- Steven has a place on both bodies as Chairman of SPBA which provide opportunities to sell SPBA to Council and strong Shoalhaven Businesses (every three months).

6. **Business Cameo** – David Byoorngard – Employsure –
- Specialised in the field of employment relations and work health and safety
 - Consultants assist businesses with skills, tools and ongoing support required to manage employee and work related health and safety requirements.
7. **Guest Speaker** – Councilor Amanda Findley – Mayor of Shoalhaven (since Sept 2016)
- Grew up in Northern Ireland with a dream was to be a lawyer or a graphic designer;
 - Came to Australia and left home at 16. Worked for McDonalds, a fish and chip shop, and with her mum at local school St Gregorys, Campbelltown;
 - 1st full time job at ANZ Guildford (youngest female manager ever appointed at that time). Her staff spoke four languages between them, smashed targets and achieved excellent customer service ratings;
 - Joined a real estate agency – and with a mentor, decided real estate not for her;
 - Worked in an international retail chain and managed two stores;
 - Took time off to go on a 12 month road trip – and only got as far as Milton;
 - Married and brought up to two daughters in Milton – with a village atmosphere – children were always safe – everyone knew where they all were;
 - Sense of community and sense of stability – things that matter to Amanda;
 - Last 20 years characterized by having many balls in the air – small children in tow. Helped to found Milton Landcare Nursery, re-trained in horticulture and land management and worked as a bush regenerator;
 - Early morning winter starts not much fun though – compelled into UOW to study 2005 – and in 2014 graduated with a teaching degree and moved onto teaching as next career;
 - Running for Council was not a long term plan. In 2016 Amanda did put her hat back in the ring resulting in her new job as mayor;
 - Amanda sees the number one challenge is climate change and sees opportunities on a day-to-day basis for the Shoalhaven. This relates to local government through financial, environmental and sustainability risks and how we handle ourselves in the future;
 - The Nowra Bridge is our main transport artery – a priority for Amanda who wants by 2020 when her term ends to be on a pathway to have an assurance of funding;
 - Talked about the skills of young people who are our future and how we have to help them unlock their skills - cited entrepreneurship as an example;
 - Referred to the Shoalhaven Education Fund presentation to 24 young people and how inspiring they were. Amanda was blown away by the choices of their career paths – and the majority of them want to return to the Shoalhaven;
 - Amanda sees opportunity for the Shoalhaven to be an enterprising hub – incubator of sorts;
 - Rates – get on with the job as a prosperous area which is maintained to a reasonable standard where people come, want to stay, work and spend;
 - Five golden rules (paraphrased);
 - Work hard and achieve your dreams
 - Do not necessarily accept authoritarian mantras
 - Make strong connections (– find people who believe in you)
 - Be honest in your assessment of your strengths + weaknesses
 - Always be tenacious
8. **Next Meetings** – Committee Meeting – Thursday, 16 March 2017
 – Breakfast Meeting - Thursday, 13 April 2017

Meeting ended 8.35am