

SHOALHAVEN PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION INC

Breakfast Meeting at Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre 7.00am - 9 August 2018

Meeting commenced 7.30am

1. Welcome and Introductions

Acknowledgement of Country

Dignitaries

- Councilor Jo Gash (Patron of SPBA)
- Councilor Patricia White
- Council General Manager Russ Pigg

New members

- Mary-Jean Lewis (Arden Lawyers) moved to the Shoalhaven from Sydney 4 months ago and opened a general and personal injury practice at Sanctuary Point
- Macey Insurance (Adam) moved to the Shoalhaven from Sydney 4 years ago. Has worked at Bowral, Camden and Nowra offices

Guests

- Karla Raison (Customer Service Manager SCC – guest of Katharine Leach)
- Luise Grice (Shoalhaven Design School – guest of Rhonda McGuire)
- Alex Stronach (Grand Pacific Health – accredited exercise physiologist)
- Annette Tesorero (accredited 1st Aid trainer – mental health in the workplace – mental health agenda for WHS)
- Sally Bacon (SCC Economic Development – moved from Sydney)
- Lucia Alonso (works for Edmiston Jones)

2. Apologies

- Jamie McAinsh
- Kimberley McMahan-Coleman

3. Events/projects

3.1 Shoalhaven Young Professionals

- 16 Aug – lunch at Dog and Monocle Nowra
- 13 Sept – breakfast at Deli on Kinghorne

3.2 Social Events

- 12 July - Pizza at UOW – 15 people attended
- 4 Sept Dinner at Destiny's (TAFE)

3.3 CEGS Application

To fund the pilot SPBA Graduate Recruitment program we applied for a Community Engagement Grants Scheme (CEGS) which provides funding to UOW staff for education, research and outreach projects that partner with community organisations and groups. Established in 2005, over \$570,000 has been awarded to 69 projects. Decision in October.

3.4 SPBA Mentoring

This was the fifth year the spba young professional mentor program has been delivered. Seventy (70) young professionals have graduated from the program and over 50 mentors have shared and given of their time, experience and knowledge.

The program was sponsored by Bendigo Bank Nowra Branch and Shoalhaven City Council through the Southern Phone dividend. Thank you to both sponsors. The program was supported by UOW Shoalhaven Campus.

The 2018 program:

- Attracted new professionals to the program as mentorees.
- Attracted new mentors to the program
- Grew the membership base of spba
- Enabled current members to either participate and to offer professional development to their staff

The aims of the program were met and included:

- Greater connections and networks within young professionals
- Greater connections and networks widely among Shoalhaven professionals and young professionals
- Increased knowledge and skills
- Increased personal confidence
- Learning opportunities
- The opportunity for members to engage more fully with young professionals
- Acknowledgement and recognition of Shoalhaven young professionals
- Increased profile and reputation of spba
- Delivery of member needs in 2018 for spba
- Presentation opportunities within spba
- Increased awareness of knowledge, skills and experience of people in the Shoalhaven.

3.5 SPBA Leadership Compass program and Advanced Diploma in Leadership and Management

This leadership professional development program is now over half way complete. Participants work on their own businesses, organisations and teams throughout the year. The program is for 12 months and ends in December.

Spba has been fortunate to have Shoalhaven's Leaders be part of the program with monthly Guest Leader sessions from:

- Shelley Hancock, MP, Member for South Coast and Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly
- John Lamont, Managing Director, Nowchem
- Deb Tozer, CEO, CareSouth
- Anna Finch, Principal, Kardia HR
- Steven Bayer, Director, Edmiston Jones
- Geoffrey Ellison, Company Liquidator
- Noel Rosskelly, formerly TYCO
- Grant Gleeson, Director Legal, Office of Local Government
- Dylan Jorgenson, Partner, IJED. (Dylan was a Graduate from last year's program).

The program combines Guest Leader session on specific topics including:

- Leadership and Management
- Strategic Planning
- Business Planning
- Managing employee relations
- Innovation and Continuous Improvement
- Organisational Development
- Financial Management
- Strategic contracts
- Quality Management Systems

3.6 Christmas Party

6 December 2018 at Nowra Golf Club. Details to follow.

3.7 Video Interviews

Katharine videoing interviews with different professionals and posting on social media - which has been very popular. Email Katharine if interested via SPBA website's 'contact us'

4. General Business

- Thanks to the office of Economic Development for their assistance with breakfast sponsorship and coordination of this networking event.
- SPBA is again involved in both judging and auditing the Shoalhaven Chamber Excellence in Business Awards. The final judging meeting is 15 Aug and the gala evening is on 31 August. Tickets still available. NowChem and RMB (SPBA members) are 2018 finalists and we wish them well on the night.
- Grant Gleeson's constructive debate from the SPBA Mentoring graduation resulted in an idea of 'scores on doors' – people doing extraordinary things. This group is still meeting and want to get this idea up and running prior to Christmas. Businesses will show these labels with the idea people will walk around and see a pattern of different business employing local people. Grant asked for SPBA approval of money to fund 'scores for doors'. Unanimous support given from the floor of the meeting.

5. Business Cameo - Elspeth Finney from Shoalhaven Family Law

Elspeth Finney is a member of SYP and on the SPBA committee. She is a Family Law solicitor and nationally accredited family law mediator with her practice represented in Nowra and Ulladulla. She is also on Legal Aid panel.

Elspeth is a young Shoalhaven professional who opened her practice in Feb 2018 and has a passion to change the legal process following separation.

In divorce there are no winners and the term is a catalyst for conflict. In separation everything that is important to you is up in the air. Almost half of all marriages end up in divorce which is the second most significant grief process people experience; after the death of a loved one.

As a family law solicitor in NSW, Elspeth adheres to laws and regulations and standards. What sets her apart is her individual approach, values and quality of service. She values people, relationships, wellbeing, happiness and the big picture - a lawyer and human at the same time. Her clients get what they are entitled to at law with as little destruction to themselves and their children as possible. Elspeth did not become a lawyer to grandstand; she is a lawyer to help people and grateful that she gets to experience this every day and make an impact with Shoalhaven Family Law.

6. Guest Speaker – Margaret Simoes – Aboriginal Community Development Officer SCC

Margaret is a descendant of the traditional custodians of the land we are gathering on, the Wandiwandian people of the Yuin nation.

Margaret was born in Nowra and grew up in La Peruse on a former government reserve. Her family ties extend from Sydney to the far south coast. Margaret was raised by her extended family. She was always taught to be proud and strong in her Aboriginality and to stand up for what she believed in; her identity; culture and her people.

Margaret's career started in education. She began working for the Dept of School Education as one of the first Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers appointed in 1989 in the Metropolitan South West Region (Liverpool / Campbelltown surrounding areas). While in this position she commenced her studies as a mature age student at the University of Western Sydney and gained her Diploma in Teaching as a Primary teacher. She was awarded her Teaching Certificate at Claymore Public School Campbelltown.

Her career in education included working with the NSW Dept of Education, NSW TAFE, Australian Catholic University, Diocese of Wollongong and now Local Government.

Margaret decided to change her career from education to local government where she is currently employed. Her present role provides the opportunity for her to work closely with her aboriginal communities to share skills and knowledge she has gained in her working career. As an active member of her community she is passionate about increasing Aboriginal cultural awareness in the broader community.

7. Next Meetings

- Committee Meeting – Thursday, 13 September 2018
- Breakfast Meeting – Thursday, 11 October 2018

Meeting closed 8.30am