

ORFORD TRIABUNNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC

Minutes of the General meeting held at the Blue waters Hotel, Orford on Thursday 28th of May 2009 at 7.30 pm.

Present: D. Pearce (President) Acting Mayor Jeni Crawford, J. And V. Hall, C. and T. Dillon, K. Freeman, K. Pybus, G. Whitton, J. Cole –Cook, L. Gadd, J. Beard.

Apologies: M. Fama, D. Metcalf, G. Elphinstone, A. Wright, M. Polley MHA, D. Bignold, C. Bresnehan.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23rd of March 2009, having previously been circulated , were confirmed.

Moved: John Hall. Seconded: Chris Dillon. Carried unanimously.

Matters Arising:

Signage: Jeni Crawford advised that the subject of signage was now under the control of LUPA. Section 48A allows for signage on private land.

Comment was made that the letter sent out by Council was blunt, and should have been couched in less dogmatic language.

A meeting has been arranged by Dale Pearce and Tony Wright with Rob Higgins (Council Planning Officer) David Metcalf (Council General Manager) to discuss signage problems.

Keith Pybus stated there is difficulty in getting visitors into Triabunna without suitable signs on the highway.

John Cole- Cook has written twice to the Council GM re the Maria Island ferry but has not as yet received a reply.

John Hall suggested that all businesses need to become involved, with a meeting of those interested to be called.

John Beard suggested that photos could be taken of signage in other Council jurisdictions.

Commission charged by the Triabunna Visitor Centre of 15% was discussed. Other VIC's charge 10%, and rates may also have been negotiated.

Shop Locally: Vonda Hall advised that the competition would start in September, and arrangements to be made for interested parties to get together.

Treasurer's Report.

There are currently 33 financial members and 3 life members.

Total funds currently available are \$9061 of which \$928 is held in the Troy- D account.

It was noted that the Troy-D dive wreck is not attracting many divers and was not advertised at all in the Triabunna Visitors Centre. It was agreed that more promotion was required for this major attraction.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as a motion.

Moved : John Hall Seconded Keith Pybus Carried unanimously.

General Business.

Maria Island:

John Cole-Cook advised that visitors to the island were virtually nil since easter, apart from school groups. He has a meeting with Parks and Wildlife to discuss financial arrangements to attract winter visitors, but does not have high expectations.

Keith Pybus stated that management of the island by Parks and Wildlife should be changed to an authority. They currently do not provide the infra-structure needed on the island. Considerable discussion followed on the lack of a positive attitude to any reasonable development or facilities on the island by Parks and Wildlife. The National Parks Association also has a limited view and is very negative.

Members agreed that there was a need to focus tourism on a day use basis. The need for an approach to Government was emphasised. The Chamber executive is currently working on a new proposal for Government consideration.

Prosser River Mouth:

Chris Dillon advised that the Chamber will only be liable for the cost of a professional photographer in respect to the recent works on the river mouth. DVD's will be provided to the Chamber, MAST, Nick Wright (David Llewellyn's office) and Council. Chris will prepare a covering and thank you letter to those involved.

Tourism Brochure:

As Tony Wright was absent this is deferred to a later meeting.

Business news:

Lisa Gadd, as Chamber representative on the Freycinet Coast Tourism Board, advised that the Board was going through several changes in office, and meetings had been cancelled. Advice of a tourism grant available from Government had arrived too late for the application deadline to be met. Members agreed that the FCTB should be prepared to apply for these grants and should be proactive, not reactive. Lisa stressed that there was virtually no

coverage for the area's natural attractions and it was essential that strong marketing strategies should be developed to highlight our area.

Jeni Crawford advised the Chamber that Council has approved expenditure of up to \$10,000 for the Glamorgan/ Spring Bay Municipality's 150th Anniversary in 2010.

Council will be looking for expressions of interest from any groups interested in developing programmes for the celebrations. She also mentioned the GSB Art Prize exhibition being held in the Swansea Town Hall on the Queens Birthday long weekend.

Vonda Hall raised the question of lack of expenditure to improve the townscape of Triabunna. Chamber will look into the possibility of a streetscape grant for the town.

Geoff Whitton suggested that the Chamber should send its congratulations to the staff and management of Spring Bay Seafoods on their recent international and national success. Members agreed that this be done.

Dale Pearce recently met with Dept of Economic Development staff re the Troy- D. The Chamber will be part of an advisory group to develop the potential of attracting divers, and their families, to our area. DED staff will progress conditions re managing the dive site, including policing the site, and possibly including the site in the marine reserve.

It was agreed that the potential of the dive wreck is limited due to more tourism promotion needed.

Next meeting:

To be held at the Blue Waters Hotel on Thursday, 16th of July 2009 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.40 pm.