



Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce Inc

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www.wentworthfalls.org.au

President's Report AGM 7th November 2011

I would like to outline the activities of the Chamber since November 2010.

- The Chamber Christmas Party and raffle was again organised to raise funds to enhance the appearance of the Wentworth Falls Village. Over \$2000 was raised to enhance the appearance of the Village and provide donations of \$400 to the RSL Wentworth Falls Sub Branch for refurbishment and maintenance of Memorial Park and \$200 to Upper Mountains Rotary for the annual Carols by Candlelight at Wentworth Falls Lake.
- The Chamber has engaged a horticulturalist for the replanting and maintenance of the tubs in the Station St precinct to provide a more colourful display than was possible with the former plantings. The current plantings will provide a more versatile display that can change seasonally. Unfortunately vandals removed about 30% of plantings but these have been replaced by the Chamber. BMCC has agreed to contribute \$250 to the cost of these vandalised plantings.
- The Chamber has also been liaising with the RTA to refurbish the plantings along the GWH to the west of Station Street.
- Traffic and parking issues in Wentworth Falls have been an ongoing concern. The Chamber has :
 - directly communicated with Hon Duncan Gay, Min for Roads concerning
 1. the installation of a safety camera at the intersection of Station St and the GWH
 2. construction of a pedestrian overpass and
 3. grade separation of GWH and local traffic (after the Leura resolution)Supporting evidence accompanied the submission. The local Member Roza Sage has also made representations to the Minister on Chamber's behalf for the installation of a safety camera. Louise Marcus has indicated that Federal Black Spot Funding is available for the installation of safety cameras. Submissions are to be made through BMCC. Chamber will be arranging an interview with the GM shortly.
 - 4. traffic signage from Sydney Airport direct to the Blue Mountains via M5, M7 and M4
 - 5. installation of e tags in tourist hire vehicles to facilitate tourists using motorways without cash booths.
- continuously lobbied BMCC regarding traffic and parking matters. As a stakeholder has been asked to respond to the Draft City Wide Parking Policy
- The Chamber has also directly communicated with the Minister for Transport, Hon Gladys Berejiklian with regard to the provision of disabled access at Wentworth Falls Rail Station. Supporting evidence accompanied the submission.

- Footbeat Festival was cancelled for 2010. The Chamber sought reimbursement of the \$1000 funding provided for the 2010 event. To date approximately \$374.85 has been reimbursed. The Chamber has requested final financial accounts from the Footbeat organisers to satisfy that the funds were appropriately spent. These accounts are yet to be released.
- The Chamber has submitted a Pre DA to BMCC on the Wentworth Falls Lake kiosk/cafe and exhibition space. BMCC waived the fee for this. The executive is yet to fully interpret BMCC Town Planning and Heritage advice and respond. As the Chamber representative on Bicentennial Crossings Committee the President has been able to suggest that the Lake Upgrade Project and the Blue Mountains Bike Plan be designated as Bicentennial Projects. It also appears that lobbying has been successful in having a Council sponsored event at Pitt Park in 2014 to celebrate Cox's Road construction.
- The Chamber has established an expression of interest to the Federal Dept of the Attorney General under the Community Crime Prevention Program for funding assistance for the installation of CCTV in Wentworth Falls Shopping Centre. The Chamber will submit an application once funds are made available under this Program. Louise Marcus MP has indicated that she is prepared to make representations on behalf of the Chamber for funding CCTV.
- The Chamber has an ongoing communication with Warwick Jones Resident Engineer, Wentworth Falls East, concerning the GWH upgrades and associated landscaping. The Chamber appreciates the ability to communicate in this fashion in an attempt to generate better outcomes for the Village and the wider community associated with the upgrade.
- The Chamber initiated two 'networking functions for existing and new members at Mountain High Pies on Sunday 4th April with an attendance of 20, and at Kedumba Gallery on Sunday 9th Oct with an attendance of 28 inclusive of the Federal Member for Macquarie, Louise Marcus, the State Member for Blue Mountains Roza Sage MP and Ward 2 BMCC Councillor Chris Van Der Kley. It is proposed that at least two network functions be held each year to showcase different member business enterprises and provide an opportunity for members to network in a more social atmosphere.
- The Chamber is at the final production stage of a new brochure promoting Wentworth Falls Village, businesses and the tourist facilities within Wentworth Falls. Twenty eight businesses have signed up to advertise in the brochure. Five new members were recruited as part of the brochure promotion. Production costs will be covered by those signing up to promote businesses. It is envisaged that 10,000 brochures minimum will be printed and available for distribution within a month. The brochure will have the latest scanning technology enabling the download to an iphone of the Chamber website and a map of Wentworth Falls.
- The Chamber noticeboard (outside Il Postino) has been better located by BMCC to be more visually accessible, new front glass doors have been fitted (BMCC) and a blue "i" will be affixed to make this the primary information facility for locals and tourists in the village. The NPWS kindly donated a copy of an anodised map of Wentworth Falls walks which is posted on the western side of the notice board. An A3 copy of the Chamber brochure will be posted in the noticeboard and copies will be available from a weather proof brochure holder. BMCC has also agreed to upgrade the landscaping in this square.

- The Chamber has also made representation to BMCC regarding the need for a bus shelter on Station St outside the Grand Olive Restaurant. The Council recognises this as a priority but can give no timeline for completion of the capital works.
- The Chamber website has been maintained and updated with member and new member details. This is an excellent means by which to promote the Village and greater Wentworth Falls. A publicity officer would be a benefit to provide news items for the website.
- In addition to addresses by Warwick Jones, the Chamber invited representatives of the National Trust to speak on their submission for an extended conservation zone in the village precinct. The Chamber will make a submission to BMCC regarding the proposed extended conservation zone.
- Chamber representatives met with members of other Blue Mountains Chambers to provide a joint response to BMCC Rate Review Proposals. These proposals would have seen some business rates increase by over 300%. Whilst the concerns over the rate proposal have momentarily abated the issue is firmly on the table and will require a concerted opposition in the future. These combined meetings of the Chambers are continuing and, in addition to the rates issue the combined Chambers are looking into issues associated with the determination of business development applications lodged with BMCC.
- The Chamber also made representations to the Stafford Consulting Group commissioned by BMCC to indicate how Council can facilitate tourism activities by alterations to LEP 1991 and LEP 2005. The Chamber submission involved extending the tourism areas to within one kilometre of the village precinct (currently confined to village precinct and GWH at WWF) and to include areas adjacent to Falls Rd, Fletcher St and Blaxland Rd Wentworth Falls. Further, the submission suggested that the Development Control Plan associated with the LEP should identify those tourist facilities/activities permissible and the intensity of use of those facilities i.e. operating hours, no of car parks, no of rooms, no of patrons etc. Tourism is the life blood of the Mountains- it is critical to nurture tourism.
- The Chamber has drafted a Policies and Procedures Document to guide the Chamber in its administration and procedures associated with its Constitution.

Finally, I would like to thank all those members of the executive, committee members and other members who have contributed so much to a busy and relatively successful year for the Chamber.

Whilst there is still much to do in many areas I am confident that the Chamber is progressing in a positive direction consistent with the objectives of the Chamber. I think it is beneficial that the Chamber be involved in business and community issues for the betterment of the Wentworth Falls Community.

'Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce Inc working for business and the community.'



Lew Hird

President

7th Nov 2011