



WENTWORTH FALLS
Chamber of Commerce and Community (Inc.)

Voice of our Community Update. Autumn 2020

PO Box 51, Wentworth Falls NSW 2782 ABN 68 127 530 898

Summary of regular Meeting Minutes held on February 10, 2020

Impact of fires on businesses and Wentworth Falls community - Total lack of support available to local business through loss of trade. Support has been predominantly for properties and businesses that have suffered loss directly by fire impact. It was noted that that an insured business which suffered directly from a fire would suffer less financially than a business which did not suffer directly by fire even though the loss of trade has a crippling impact on that business. State and Federal governments are offering \$100,000 low-interest loans to businesses who have suffered indirectly from the fires. 2 years interest free with the balance to be paid within another 3 years at Reserve Bank rates. Discussion ensued regarding government loan support – businesses indirectly effected just need a financial assistance grant, not a loan.

The Council initiated "Love Local" campaign will focus on one town at a time in the Blue Mountains Gazette.

Customers/tourists should always be encouraged to visit business websites rather than third party sites which take commissions away from businesses.

Blue Mountains Accommodation & Tourism Association and BMCC working on destination marketing. Government business advisor meetings are available to businesses.

It was noted that bushfire evacuation points for residents were mainly advised on the BMCC Facebook page. This essential information needs to be disseminated elsewhere as not everyone uses Facebook. Various village Chambers of Commerce need to be fully advised regarding important community issues such as this. Concern was expressed that Pitt Park was main evacuation assembly point in Wentworth Falls.

CCTV and Draft Policy – Solar batteries to operate the system in the village cost \$600. They typically last 4 to 5 years. Connection to mains power would cost approximately \$1200. WFCC&C will offer free membership to businesses which allow connection to their power source. WFCC&C will obtain more information re batteries. WFCC&C needs to keep pushing in this regard to have this item placed on the agenda for the Mayoral Reference Group to seek Council contribution to maintenance of CCTV in villages throughout the Mountains.

Pedestrian Safety on Rail Bridge, Station Street, Wentworth Falls – The petition for the upgrade to the safety of the rail overbridge has achieved 550 signatures currently but needs to achieve 1000 signatures before sending to Blue Mountains City Council. The petition can be accessed through: <http://chnq.it/n5CpjFVhhV>

MCCC and Mayoral Business Reference Group – The total focus for this group has been on the Bushfire Recovery. Several submissions have been made by MCCC to relevant authorities.

Objectives of WFCC&C Inc. and updated Wentworth Falls Village Brochure – A six-page, A5 sized brochure promoting Wentworth Falls and associated businesses is currently in the design stage. Quotes received for the design are prohibitively expensive. BMCC may be in a position to provide an updated map to help with the brochure. More information to follow.

CORONA VIRUS Update – With new government regulation and public gathering requirements, please note that the **ANZAC DAY** commemoration on April 25 at the Memorial Garden has necessarily been cancelled. Please also be aware that the **Square Dance Convention** that was scheduled for mid-April has also been cancelled. Stay updated on all COVID-19 details through trusted sources, not social media chatter.

The next quarterly meeting is due to be held on Monday, June 15 at 6.00pm. Venue TBC.

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