

MINUTES OF THE TOWNSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC
135TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Tuesday 12 September 2017 at 5.30pm at
The Hotel Grand Chancellor, 334 Flinders Street, Townsville



PRESENT:

The Mayor of Townsville, Councillor Jenny Hill and 104 Chamber Members and Guests attended.

OPENING MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting was declared open by the Chair, Marie-Claude Brown.

APOLOGIES:

Daryl Holmes – 1300 Smiles Dentists
Meg Davis – Townsville Multicultural Support Group
Cassandra Mendo – The Ville
Adele Young – Townsville City Council
Alan Clark – National Australia Bank
Cathy O’Toole MP, Federal Member for Herbert
Fay Barker – TSV Chamber President 1997-1999
Maxime Amos – Distinctive Promotions

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Friday 16th September 2016, having been previously circulated to Members were accepted and confirmed as read.

Moved: Troy Popham Seconded: Jan Pool ADOPTED

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2017 were tabled and taken as read.

Moved: Kevin Booth Seconded: John Carey ADOPTED

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

Written nominations for the following positions were received in accordance with the Rules of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce.

President	Debbie Rains	Escape Travel
Deputy President	Michele Falconieri	Wilson Ryan Grose Lawyers
Treasurer	Chris Rockemer	Menninger Capital
Immediate Past President	Troy Popham	Crowe Horwath
Secretary	Jan Pool	DanceNorth
Board Members	Peter Cavallo	Carey Accountants
	David Halberg	Delta Office Solutions
	Michael Kopittke	Etrainu
	Kimberley Williams	KLP Family Law
	Kevin Booth	NQ Audio Visual
	Dan Christie	James Cook University
	Clinton Huff	Shamrock Civil Engineering

Only one nomination for each of the above positions was received, therefore no election was required for the Board positions for the 2017/2018 year.

GENERAL BUSINESS

No General Business.



OFFICIAL AUDITORS:

The Official Audit for 2016/2017 financial year was conducted by Jessups Accountants and Business Advisors. Jessups indicated their agreement to continue as official auditor for the Townsville Chamber and were duly appointed for the 2017/2018 year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Debbie Rains, Owner Manager of Escape Travel and the newly elected Townsville Chamber President delivered the President's Report.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

I am both humbled and honoured to stand here today as the 65th President of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce in the Chambers 135th year of service.

As a born and bred multi-generation Townsvillian, I love our city and am proud to take my turn as custodian of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce and continue the legacy of the outstanding work by chambers past.

As a small to medium sized business owner, operating in regional Queensland for 29years, I bring to the chamber real experience and understanding of the issues of business operating in the SME area and in my role over the next two years, I hope to be able to contribute further to the development of this great city.

Chambers of Commerce are formed by business for business and operate to support members and provide a collective voice to be heard on matters of advocacy on connectivity, city defining project and job creation.

Our collective strengths and diversity of industries around the board table, give us an excellent indication of what is happening in the business community of our city.

We are small and nimble enough to respond with action and as an Apolitical group, we are able to ask the hard questions of our politicians.

We are all volunteers as Board members of the Chamber and all balance our businesses and employment with the commitment to our role as chamber board members. Everyone contributes a large number of volunteer hours into the role, all in good faith and without personal gain, for the business community and therefore the Townsville community.

I thank my husband, family and teams at Escape Travel, in advance, for their support as I take on this additional role and am very grateful Greg has decided he likes cooking and cleaning up!!!

I give a huge thanks to Troy Popham for his role as president for the past 2 years and handing over the guardianship in such good shape. He has set an amazingly high bar to follow, with his contribution /attendance to over 615 interviews and events during his 2 years as president. I thank Troy for his stewardship over this period, he has been a terrific role model and ambassador for the Townsville Chamber and Townsville in general.

I welcome Michele Falconieri as the new deputy of the chamber, and am grateful for the support, encouragement and council that each and every one of the board provide to me ongoing. We have a very active board with everyone standing up to play their part. Thank you to Michele, Michael, Peter, Jan, Chris, David, Kevin, Kimberley and Dan in doing so.

Our board is ably supported by our amazing Chamber Project's Committee (formerly known as the Young Chamber) and the wisdom of Chamber past Presidents.

The change in structure from Young Chamber Committee to Chamber Projects Committee is to enable us to take on specific projects with defined outcomes, but I won't steal Ebannee's thunder and will let her explain.



The ladies in the Chamber office, our Executive Officer Marie-Claude, who works full time in the Chamber, thank you for your ongoing efforts, Vivian and Debbie, thank you both also for all your efforts now and into the future.

Today we have acknowledged our new members, Clinton, Dan and Kevin to the board, I would like to acknowledge and thank departing board members Allison McKay and David Low for their previous service and support over the years.

Today I reiterate Troy's commitment during his AGM speech when taking office, The Board and Executive of the Chamber have always focussed heavily on building business capacity in our region. We continue our commitment to support the broad business and industry community in Townsville, particularly small to medium enterprises and of course our members. This involves:

- A clear vision so that we can see the opportunities;*
- Being a strong voice so that we are actively engaged and being heard at all levels of government and with our fellow stakeholder groups; and*
- Having an open ear to take member concerns and ideas forward*

We will continue to be the voice of business and support our members and the small to medium business so the city and the region become stronger.

Together with Townsville Enterprise, Regional Development Australia, Townsville Business Development Centre, Regional Councils and government agencies we continue with shared economic development roles, on a united front to fight for opportunities for the region.

The Townsville Chamber of Commerce is a member based organisation and so we continue to encourage businesses to consider becoming a member (if they have not already done so) to further build on our already strong and active membership.

We thank the partners of the Chamber, National Australia Bank and Aon Risk Services, thank you David Reid, for your support of the Chamber and identifying the strong role we all play in seeking business opportunities for small to medium business. We look forward to a long and mutually fruitful partnership.

Our calendar of events will over the next 12months will continue to showcase our business matters luncheons, our chamber coffees, both in Bulletin Square and Cannon Park, member site visits, our annual golf day and our biannual Business Awards. So plenty of opportunities to be involved.

So ladies and gentlemen, the Townsville Chamber of Commerce will continue to be an advocate for and to advance the best possible business environment for our members to operate in. We will continue to unashamedly fight for the best interests of both this city and this region in these exciting and interesting times.

The board and executive are all very passionate people for our region and look forward to the opportunities the future may bring,

Thank you all for your continued support of the chamber and your attendance today.

It is a tradition of the Townsville Chamber AGMs that we hear from our Mayor. So it is with great pleasure that I welcome Councillor Jenny Hill to the stage to give her annual City update and Mayoral address. Please join with me in welcoming Mayor Jenny Hill.

Thank you



CR JENNY HILL, MAYOR OF TOWNSVILLE - ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMUNITY

Mayor Jenny Hill delivered the Annual Address to the Business and Industry Community.

VOTE OF THANKS:

Callum MacPherson delivered a vote of thanks to Mayor Jenny Hill.

CAPTAIN OF THE CHAMBER PROJECTS COMMITTEE – MESSAGE

Ebanee Jones, Captain of the Chamber Projects Committee, delivered a Message from the Chamber Projects Committee and introduced the committee members.

Good afternoon esteemed members and guests...

The YCC has had another successful year within the Townsville community. Hosting 33 coffee networking mornings including guest speakers.

As a team we also fortified the Cash Mob experience reaching out to Entropy, Super Cheap Auto, Kirwan Tenpin Bowling the Barra Fun Park providing our members and community an opportunity to diversify their target clients and therefore sales through carefully organised events and a new relationship with key media such as Star1063.

We also forged forward with our partnership with James Cook University encouraging students to excel in work ready skills.

As a group of passionate leaders however, we wanted more. I am very excited to announce our new name : the Chamber Projects Committee - which better reflects our purpose to support future generations of business.

Under our new branding our committee will concentrate on creating commerce as well as connecting members and the community to innovative business promotion. This will be achieved through a continuation of our already successful Cash Mob programs, Business Matters luncheons and a well recognised professional pathways program offered to all students attending JCU.

As a team we have a passion for the promotion of good business while utilising our backgrounds. Please welcome:

Kate Herron - my Co Captain. Kate has a keen eye for business promotion and currently co owns and manages her family business Herron CAMC property whilst also working for JLT insurance brokers and sits on a variety of community boards.

Mark Williamson from the Grand Hotel offering an insight into tourism and hospitality as well as commercial contracts.

Stephanie De Domenico is our legal guru from Wilson Ryan and Grose.

Amanda Bell currently works for QSuper and is highly experienced in membership development and marketing.

Ben Prest

And myself with 7yrs at Hays Recruitment having a passion for bridging the gap between skill development and employment as well as people and talent management.

With our pledge to promote good business while developing skills for the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs, this committee aims to create commerce opportunities through a range of projects.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events including Reef HQ on Saturday the 30th September with a special meet the mermaids; and JCU networking for success on Tuesday 17th October from 5-6pm to be held in the amphitheatre on the Douglas campus.

If you would like any further information regarding our project team or upcoming projects please come and find us tonight or contact us via the Townsville Chamber.



Thank you members for your support and we look forward to working with you all again this coming year.

CLOSE:

There being no further business, the 135th Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 6.30pm.

**Debbie Rains
President**