



WORKING FOR LOCAL BUSINESS

MUDGEERABA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY INC.
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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to our first edition newsletter for 2008, it has been quite some time since reporting to you last and much has happened in that time. We have had elections, a weaker US economy, numerous larger companies “going to the wall” both here and globally and rising interest rates. Whilst real estate remains buoyant the turnaround sale time for properties has now increased to about six weeks, with prices remaining strong. There has been a slight softening of conditions to the Gold Coast business sector; this is expected to continue at least over the next quarter. The negative sentiment about future economic growth prospects can largely be attributed to rising input costs and the current uncertainty surrounding interest rates. These as well as the future performance of the Australian and global economies also add to this negative factor. The six main constraints on business growth in the Gold Coast region are (1) The recruitment and retention of suitably qualified staff (2) Direct wage costs (3) The compliance burden associated with business tax obligations (4) Indirect Wage costs (5) Interest rates (6) Rising fuel costs. It is expected that national economic conditions will weaken over the coming year. This negative view is reflected in the twelve month outlook for the Australian economy, which has fallen to its lowest level in five years. However not all news is negative it is time to take a close look at our business structure, after all it controls our future, if you are suffering financial hardships now or on the horizon now is the time to act. Don't wait for creditors or financiers to move to appoint a receiver or liquidator as your options to recover will be severely limited. Usually business turnaround professionals can identify fairly quickly if a properly formulated rescue plan can save a business, and have access to the financing that will be needed for recovery.

Terry Hobson PRESIDENT

Farewell



We are sad to have lost Anne and Arthur Wells from our Chamber and also our committee. They are starting a new life in Grafton and we wish them all the best and thank them for all their help and support over the years. (Anne is still acting as our Treasurer until elections in August).

We are also losing Linda Pratt, another long time supporter of the Chamber and the committee. Linda has sold her business in Mudgeeraba and is moving to Nerang and looking forward to becoming an employee (and probably working half the hours)

Mary Anne Hossack has also had to resign due to ill health. We wish her a speedy recovery.

What do these losses mean to you? We will be looking to replace these members at our August AGM. Please consider how you could help your local business community by joining us on the Committee.

Welcome

We would like to welcome new Members BCT-Transfers Airport Transfers. BCT transfers is one of Queensland's leading transfer companies, currently transferring over 4,000 clients every month in our quality Voyagers and Brand New Taragos.

Did you know?

- 20,509 people live in the Mudgeeraba-Reedy Creek local area, up by nearly 3000 in 5 years
- 51.2% of them are female
- 23.9% or nearly a quarter of your potential local customers are overseas born
- 7.9% of our local population is over 65

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006, and 2001.

If you are working on a business plan or grant application and need some statistical information about our local area check out our Community Profile for Mudgeeraba-Reedy Creek at www.id.com.au/goldcoast/commprofile.

It might also give you some ideas on how to expand your customer base by target marketing to a different local demographic.

The trend unemployment rate in Queensland fell to 3.5% in February 2008, from 3.6% in January 2008. This represents the lowest rate in the 30 year history of the monthly labour force series.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, February 2008 (Cat no 6202.0)

Upcoming Events

Networking Night

Wednesday, 23rd April, 2008. 6.30pm start



Spend the evening at our very own local Museum. Guides will be there to take us through all the displays and answer any of our questions about the history of our beautiful town.

Nibbles, a BBQ dinner, soft drinks, cake and bottomless coffee will be provided. BYO Alcohol

Cost is \$25.00

RSVP: 21/04/08 Secretary, Trish Bridgement. Ph: 5530 2769 or 0419 680 422

Email: secretary@mudgeerabachamber.com

Breakfast

Our next breakfast will be held on Friday, 30th May, 2008 at the Tallai Country Golf Club.

7am start

Cost: \$25.00

RSVP: 28/05/08 Secretary Trish Bridgement. Ph: 5530 2769 or 0419 680 422

Email: secretary@mudgeerabachamber.com

We would like to organise all payments to the Chamber to be direct deposits to our account, please check with Trish for the details.

We are also looking at organising a Fun Casino Night as a fundraising event to support the B.R.A.K.E program (Behaviour, Risk, Attitude, Knowledge, Education) Driver Awareness Program later in the year. Stay tuned for more details. If you are able to help or have any suggestions how to ensure the success of this night, please let us know.

Your Chamber organises these events so we not only become more educated about our local area but to encourage networking amongst our local businesses. If we don't support each other, who will? Remember, "If you're not networking, you're not working".

We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Mudgeeraba Chamber of Commerce

Joke of the Month WICO (*Women In Charge Of Everything*) is proud to announce the opening of its **EVENING CLASSES**

FOR MEN! OPEN TO MEN ONLY. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Note: *Due to the complexity and level of difficulty, each course will accept a maximum of eight participants*

The course covers two days, and topics covered in this course include:

DAY ONE

HOW TO FILL ICE CUBE TRAYS

Step by step guide with slide presentation

TOILET ROLLS- DO THEY GROW ON THE HOLDERS?

Roundtable discussion

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAUNDRY BASKET & FLOOR

Practicing with hamper (Pictures and graphics)

DISHES & SILVERWARE; DO THEY LEVITATE/FLY TO KITCHEN SINK OR DISHWASHER BY THEMSELVES?

Debate among a panel of experts.

REMOTE CONTROL

Losing the remote control - Help line and support groups

LEARNING HOW TO FIND THINGS

Starting with looking in the right place

Instead of turning the house upside down while screaming - Open forum

DAY TWO

EMPTY MILK CARTONS;

DO THEY BELONG IN THE FRIDGE OR THE BIN?

Group discussion and role play

HEALTH WATCH;

BRINGING HER FLOWERS IS NOT HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH

PowerPoint presentation

REAL MEN ASK FOR DIRECTIONS WHEN LOST

Real life testimonial from the one man who did

IS IT GENETICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SIT QUIETLY

AS SHE PARALLEL PARKS?

Driving simulation

HOW TO BE THE IDEAL SHOPPING COMPANION

Relaxation exercises, meditation and breathing techniques

REMEMBERING IMPORTANT DATES

& CALLING WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE

Bring your calendar or PDA to class

GETTING OVER IT;

LEARNING HOW TO LIVE WITH BEING WRONG ALL THE TIME

Individual counselors available

Newsletter Thought

Struggles strengthen.

Understand that problems are a good sign. Problems indicate that progress is being made, wheels are turning, and you are moving toward your goals.

Beware when you have no problems. Then you've really got problems. Problems are like landmarks of progress.

~Scott Alexander~

Your Committee

Executive

President	Terry Hobson	5522 0099 / 0413 845 737
Vice President	John Forrester	556905060
Secretary	Trish Bridgement	5530 2769 / 0419 680 422

Committee Members

Linda Pratt, Arlene Dowdell, Tania Wright, Maree Mills