

73rd Annual General Meeting Minutes of Meeting

Held at Gosford RSL Club, Central Coast Highway, West Gosford NSW on
Wednesday 18th November 2020 commencing 1:45pm

Rod Dever opened the meeting at 1:50pm and welcomed everyone.

Louise De Martin (as Returning Officer) welcomed everyone to the AGM 2020 and thanked the 2019/2020 Board members in what was a tough year to work in.

Apologies accepted: Tim Gunasinghe
Gabby Bowles
Anna Cruckshank
Paula Martin
Graham Black
Dan Campbell

Attendance: Louise De Martin – Returning Officer
Rod Dever
Petrina Waddell
David Evers
Michael Trimblett
Darren Fischer
Lois Marshall
Edgar Adams
Mike D’Silva
Gary Young
Russell Cooper
Kerry Spencer
Ronald Miller
Michael Dowling
Ralf Dahmen
Dolly Ingram
Colin Links
Kaylene Giff
Jenny Cusick (minutes)

1. Minutes of previous AGM held Tuesday 26th November 2019 to be accepted.
Moved Edgar Adams, seconded Petrina Waddell – carried unanimously.

No matters arising from previous minutes.

Louise De Martin called for any ordinary business. NIL

2. Rod Dever - President's Report as tabled.

Moved by Petrina Waddell and seconded by Lois Marshall that the report be accepted – carried unanimously

As I look back over the past year of the Chambers operations, I can't help but note the traction gained with our projects, membership engagement and advocacy for change. The Chamber voice has never been stronger and we are very proud of that.

The Chamber ramped up the push for a University Campus in Gosford very early on in the current term of the Board and we have not taken our foot off the pedal since. We have public support for the project from all levels of Government which is great. Now we are working to see this come to fruition and we remain steadfast on the goal of delivery as this project will add so much to the economic position of the city.

Parking is also another key project. We have identified land holdings, had a draft design and a concept plan put together, had it costed and it's now currently being circulated with some of the key stakeholders that could potentially be involved in that project. When all the background research and formation is done then it can come to a public exhibition type discussion and we will start to push that further. We involve partnership arrangements because the Chamber can't deliver these types of things on our own.

Over the past year, our events have continued to grow. Even through the COVID-19 impacts, we have managed to remain relevant with online events and we have fortunately now transitioned back to face to face events which are attracting strong interest.

We hosted so many keynote speakers who were positive about the Central Coast and our service area. These speakers have included:

- The Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister of Australia
- The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer of Australia
- The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW
- The Hon. John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier of NSW and the Minister for Regional NSW
- Lucy Wicks MP, Federal Member for Robertson
- Adam Crouch MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast and Member for Terrigal
- Liesl Tesch MP, Member for Gosford
- Commander Superintendent Tony Joice – Brisbane Water Local Area Command

When you look at the line up just of those as a quick snapshot show me another local Chamber that have had a line up like that. The Board should be applauded for the work that they do to bring in the quality of speakers.

We have also had speakers on business matters and development topics which have all added so much to our local area. The Board would like to thank all our guest speakers for their time and commitment to supporting business in the region. We also thank our local MP's and their teams who have been instrumental in co-ordinating some of our speakers.

Covid-19 bought the economy to a sudden halt in early March and like many of you and your businesses, the Chamber had to adapt to the situation. This on the back of drought conditions, fires and floods certainly put pressure on businesses and their operation. You as business operators worked hard to overcome these challenges and should be applauded for your efforts. Businesses took a new direction, adapted new business models and many marketed to new customers over this time. Your efforts and resilience allowed you to "get on" with what you do. I know it has been tough, however, we hope the worst is over. We urge you all to remain vigilant and focussed moving forward as we head towards the tourism season. Ensure your COVID plans are in place and that you are taking measures to ensure that you are here for the longest time and not

again impacted by this dreaded infection.

We have seen the Central Coast Mariners move to a possible sale. It would be a loss to the region economically if we lost the Mariners as they are a part of our region. They support ground roots football and deliver a lot to the economy. Don't let the "on pitch performance" cloud your support for what this organisation does off the pitch. Many teams go through rebuilds to strengthen their performance. We wish the Mariners as our partners in business a positive and strong 2020/2021 season and look forward to our continued relationship with them.

The recent events which have impacted Central Coast Council are unfortunate but there is no time to dwell on what was. The Chamber is supportive of the appointment of an Administrator and an interim CEO to review and hopefully address the issues that have arisen. Of course, there are many factors which have contributed to the outcome and it would be amiss of us to place blame. The community and businesses have their views on this, and rightfully so, as we all deserve Council operations that can deliver and drive the region's growth. We will allow the new team to do their role and await the findings of their reviews. The business has to continue and as you have all proven this year, even under difficult and challenging circumstances, it will.

There is no international travel. No international tourists and very little tourism dollar coming in from this angle, however, 2020 is the year of the staycation. I look at the local spending and appreciate our business to business and business to customer spend. This is what is keeping us sustainable at present. Remember, where you can, buy local, support local and help keep our businesses going on the Coast.

As I close off, I would like to express my thanks to all our sponsors and supporters. You have all remained by our side and stand with us, working to improve business locally and for the region.

I have had the honour of being the President of the Chamber now for three consecutive years and previously for eight years. I love our city and all it offers. Gosford is a city of potential. And there is a lot. I am grateful for the support of you, our members. It is you who we all work for and I am pleased to have been with you all over a difficult time.

I extend my thanks to the team at the Chamber. Yes, you know them as the Board of Directors, however, I say team because we have a 100% working board. Each one of our Board this year has worked hard to deliver change. Each person works on projects and tasks to support this Chamber and I am now and always will be grateful for all that the "team" have done. Additionally, I thank our Office Coordinator, Jenny for her assistance throughout the year who has done a fantastic job keeping us going.

Finally, thank you to the Chamber Executive. Petrina Waddell as Vice President and David Evers as Treasurer. You have been outstanding as always. And to our project leaders Edgar Adams, Darren Fisher and Anna Cruickshank. Additional thanks.

We now move to the election of the Board for 2020-2021. I have no idea who will nominate to be involved in our Chamber. I do however know that when people nominate it is not for self-interest. The Board of this Chamber is YOUR Board and we are here for you and your business.

Best wishes for the year ahead and kind regards

3. Treasurers Report

Moved by Edgar Adams and seconded by Mike D'Silva – carried unanimously

The Treasurers report has been circulated. The last 12 months has been an extreme challenge for lots of various businesses including the Chambers. I'm proud of the leaderships ability to have adapted to that

change and still provide the support and promote the interest of businesses on the Coast. The fact that we are able to have the Premiers, Prime Ministers, Treasurers and the like it strongly advocates the views of our members, this is what it is all about. The fact that we were able to do that in an environment that is as different as it was is a tribute to the motivation of the leadership team, particularly the Board that the Chamber haven't lost focus. Think about what has happened in most recent times with the collapse of the Councils finance and the like, I believe this presents us with a true opportunity to stand at the forefront and lead from the front to make sure we do make the difference and that we make sure we do get some of these key projects that we are looking for to benefit all of us and our kids and we make sure we get that done and make it happen now. If anything, I'm more excited about the next 12 months with that opportunity in front of us. It will not be easy but it will mean that we will have to step up and provide that voice for the business community on the Coast right now. If ever we are going to make a difference, I am encouraged that this next 12 month is the right term to do it.

I'd like to formally thank Rod for his efforts, the amount of time and effort he puts into this job is phenomenal. It's not something that I know too many people would put their hand up for the extra work.

Everyone in the Board fills their role, it is a team effort but it would be remiss of me if I didn't acknowledge Edgar and the effort he puts in for no personal benefit other than promoting businesses on the Central Coast which is what he has been passionate about for many, many years. I had a conversation with you a few years back hoping that you would re-join the Board and I am grateful that you did and we value your passion and energy that you bring to the table.

Financially the Chamber is in a very solid position. Moving forward in the current numbers there is an opportunity for us to further improve our position. It's always a delicate balance with a Chamber. It's not about having a big Balance Sheet and a lot of money there, it's about investing and promoting projects and passing information to our members that will add value to them. We are better positioned now than we have ever been whilst I have been involved with the Board to actually do, promote and actively take on some projects in the next 12 months that will improve Gosford itself.

It's been a personal honour to continue to serve the Board and I hope to continue to support the Chamber in the next 12 months.

Louise De Martin declared all officers opened.

The Board can comprise of up to 12 Executive Directors and the Executive Team then internally nominate their President, Vice President and Treasurer at their next Board Meeting.

At the time of closing there were 9 complete and eligible nominations received.

Louise read out all nominations individually for nominees to verbally accept appointment to the Board.

Returning Board Members – Rod Dever,
Petrina Waddell
David Evers
Edgar Adams
Michael Trimblett
Darren Fischer
Anna Cruckshank
Gabby Bowles
Lois Marshall

Election of Committee was not required to go to a vote as there were not enough nominations to fill the Board. All nominees were eligible, all nominees are financial members of the Chamber and meet the criteria of the nomination as per the Constitution.

There are 3 vacant positions on the Board and the Chamber reserves it's right to fill those positions should they be required on invitation at any given point. The Chamber can invite someone with a certain skill set into the Board to contribute and complete the Board.

Louise congratulated all nominees on being appointed to the Chamber Board for 2020/2021.

Louise then thanked the Board for their service and acknowledged that we are looking forward to a better 2021.

4. Election of the auditors

The motion has been proposed that the Gosford Erina Business Chamber retain:

Fortunity Value Creation, Accountancy Firm and Wealth Management
155 The Entrance Road
Erina NSW 2250
Phone: 02 4304 8888

Moved by Edgar Adams, seconded by Petrina Waddell

All in favour of retaining Fortunity Value Creation as Auditors for 2020/2021.

Rod Dever has advised that he will adopt the role of Acting President until the Board meet for their first meeting to select the executive. On behalf of myself and the incoming Board we thank you for your ongoing support.

Meeting declared closed at 2:15pm