



**LOXTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.**  
**MINUTES**

<b>Meeting:</b>	General Chamber Meeting	<b>Date:</b>	6 March 2017
<b>Chair:</b>	Deb Petch	<b>Location</b>	Frankie & Dandelion, 8 East Terrace Loxton
<b>Time:</b>	7.35pm	<b>Taken by:</b>	Tessa Kirk
<b>Attendees:</b>	<i>Lew Gibbs, Sonya Altschwager, Sharyn Schlein, Annette Winter, Catarina Santini, Sally Goode, Paul Lewis, Mark Halliday, Sheree Cameron, Lorraine Mowbray, Gillian Malone, Leonie Lawson, Deb Thiele, Melanie Albrecht, Russell Drechsler, Jane Wilson, Ted Sinoch, Donna Felder, Glanys Schubert</i>		
<b>Apologies:</b>	<i>Kerri Blaser, Ann Biele, Ryan Seaman, Jodie Koch, Chioma Amaechi, Lesley Golding, Julia Dansie, Connie Dziwoki</i>		

<b>Agenda #</b>	<b>Topic/Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
1.	Confirmation of previous General Meeting Minutes dated 12 December 2016	No changes. <i>Moved: Annette Winter</i> <i>Seconded: Sally Goode</i>	
2.	Business Arising: <i>a) Research Centre weren't ready to host as a meeting venue. Will look into it again for the next scheduled meeting.</i> <i>b) Ideas Matrix – a lot happening, it has been delayed. Still to come.</i> <i>c) Australia Day Award. Sonya &amp; Deb accepted on behalf of the Chamber. Idea put forward that Chamber businesses can take turns displaying. If anyone would like to display please contact Sonya.</i>	<i>a) Sonya to book</i>  <i>b) Sonya to update list and forward to members</i>	B&EM  B&EM
3.	Correspondence in: None		
4.	Correspondence out: <i>a) February Chamber Chat</i> <i>b) Enquiry to Rotary RE Jeff Kennett visit</i> <i>c) Council request for \$10,000 funding lodged 17/2/2017 for 2017/18 Joint Funding Projects with Chamber</i> <i>d) Emails with Clark Property Group, LAP, RE Woolworths Walkway Project</i> <i>e) Letter of support for the Loxton Hotel Grant Funding application – Building Better Futures.</i>	<i>a) Nil</i> <i>b) Nil</i> <i>c) Nil</i>  <i>d) Ongoing</i>  <i>e) Nil</i> <i>Moved: Catarina Santini</i> <i>Seconded: Sally Goode</i>	B&EM
5.	Business Arising from correspondence: None		
6.	Reports:		
	a) President's summary of Executive	Nil	

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	Planning Meeting held 13 February 2017		
	<p>b) Historical Village survey results from 18 Chamber members (see copy report attached).  <i>Discussion was had regarding what role Chamber should play going forward with Historical Village and council.</i></p>	<p><i>Sonya to report findings back to Council and show we are happy to be involved with any ongoing discussions and work.</i>  <i>Moved: Paul Lewis</i>  <i>Seconded: Lew Gibbs</i></p>	B&EM
	c) Feedback from East Terrace retailers on Christmas Trading hours 2016 (see feedback summary attached).	<p><i>Look at it again and make a decision when planning Christmas Trading this year.</i></p>	B&EM
	<p>d) Loxton Waikerie Council Report</p> <p><i>d.1 Swimming Pool – 50 metre lap pool needs a new pump. Currently trying to source new pump. Once replaced, pool will reopen and season extended for one month. Provided pump arrives in time. Two smaller pools will remain closed until next season and further decisions made next Summer.</i></p> <p><i>d.2 Congratulated Chamber for Australia Day award.</i></p> <p><i>d.3 Continuing main street redevelopment. Toilets septic tank will be upgraded, bus bay easement and amenity area around the library will also be upgraded. Council will be fixing the fountain rather than removing. This central area will be the focus for 2017. Annette asked about consultation between council and local bus drivers to confirm the changes to bus bay are practical. Council confirmed correspondence has been received in regards to this matter.</i></p> <p><i>d.4 Deb requested that she be copied in on any formal correspondence from Chamber to Council</i></p>	<p><i>d.4 Ongoing</i></p>	Secretary & B&EM
	e) Business watch SAPOL <i>No representative present.</i>		
	f) Treasurer's report – Catarina Santini. <i>No report due (quarterly only).</i>		
	<p>g) Business and events manager – Sonya Altschwager</p> <p><i>g.1 March Shopping Promo – Shop Small Win Big has begun. Began today 6<sup>th</sup> March and running until 24<sup>th</sup> March in all</i></p>		

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	<p><i>Gold Member businesses. Advertised on TV, The Loxton News &amp; Murray Pioneer.</i></p> <p><i>g.2 Promotional banners for the Chamber of Commerce have been approved. The first one was used at the Nippy's Gift recently. Can be used by any member business wanting to represent Loxton and the chamber at an event. Please contact Sonya if you wish to use. Next up: corporate pull up banner.</i></p> <p><i>g.3 Easter - planning is underway. Two new sponsors for the breakfast event have come on board.</i></p> <p><i>g.4 Pedal Prix – sponsorship sourcing underway. Working with the council. Loxton Community Group locked in as sponsors.</i></p> <p><i>g.5 Drabsch Street Car Parking – lack of off street car parking causing issues amongst businesses between East Tce and Pyap St.</i></p>	<p><i>g.2 Sonya to work with Larry's Signs regarding design for corporate pull up banner.</i></p> <p><i>g.3 Ongoing</i></p> <p><i>g.4 Ongoing</i></p> <p><i>g.5 Sonya to write to council and enquire about their plans for car parking in Drabsch Street with demolition of building between East Tce and Pyap St. Moved: Paul Lewis Seconded: Sally Goode</i></p>	<p><i>B&amp;EM</i></p> <p><i>B&amp;EM</i></p> <p><i>B&amp;EM</i></p> <p><i>B&amp;EM</i></p>
	<p><i>h) Reports Accepted</i></p>	<p><i>Moved: Catarina Santini Seconded: Tessa Kirk</i></p>	
<p><i>7.</i></p>	<p><i>Other Business</i></p> <p><i>a) 2017 Mainstreet SA Conference: 7 April 2017. Registration for representative to attend in Glenelg is \$455. No detailed program yet but there will be keynote speakers visiting from overseas. SA Regional Tourism Summit will be held in the Riverland this year. \$360 cost for two days with potentially 50-60 Visitor Information Centres attending.</i></p> <p><i>b) Woolworths Walk Through Project. This redevelopment is separate to the Revitalisation plans as it is privately owned. Loxton District Landcare has put forward \$5000 funding for artwork to be displayed and were in talks with Steve Clark about replastering walls. Chamber put forward an Art Installation</i></p>	<p><i>a) Put to meeting that we send chamber representative to SA Regional Tourism Summit instead of the Mainstreet SA Conference. Everyone in favour for Sonya to attend. Moved: Paul Lewis Seconded: Ted Sinoch</i></p> <p><i>Research and plans are currently on-going.</i></p>	<p><i>B&amp;EM</i></p> <p><i>B&amp;EM</i></p>

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	<p><i>idea with joint council funding. A hanging art installation framework that can have changeable features. E.g fairy lights and baubles at Christmas, community used display, etc. Steve is in favour and is currently researching insurance options.</i></p> <p><i>Creative Pools and Landscaping have been approached to put together concept plans for area. Current proposals are to move the planter sections to allow a roomier walkway. Sandblasting the walls to showcase rustic brick work. Screening from Ruby Square to Woolworths end to create a proper walk through.</i></p> <p><i>Further funding partners to be approached.</i></p> <p><i>c) Little Free Library. Book swap program. A free "library shelf" going in the playground for users to exchange childrens books.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed (adult) version in the main street.</i></p>	<p><i>c) Minimal research to be conducted into the idea. Such as safety, design and ongoing management. Permission to be sought from business owner re location.</i></p> <p><i>7c) Moved: Sally Goode</i></p> <p><i>Seconded: Paul Lewis</i></p>	B&EM
8.	<p>Guest Speaker – Tessa Kirk, Frankie &amp; Dandelion.</p> <p><i>Made a presentation telling her story of her journey as a business owner.</i></p>		
	<b>Meeting Close: 9.20pm</b>	<p>Next General Meeting: 8 May 2017 Location TBC</p>	

## Loxton Historical Village Survey Report

### Total number of surveys collected: 18

**Q1. Do you see the Village as an attraction TO our town, as distinct to an attraction to do IN town?**

Yes: 64.71% No: 35.29%

Comments:

- The only people who seem to visit the Village are grey nomads who stay at the free camping sites, bring all of their food with them and don't spend a single cent while in town. Why are we working to attract them when we should be bringing in families with kids or empty nest couples with time and money to spend.
- Although there is still a small amount of people who make the effort to visit Loxton to see the Village, younger people in general so not seem to have the same interest in history as they used to. The Village Alive Days used to give people a reason to visit but without them, it does not have much atmosphere.
- To do in town.

- We need attractions in our town, not just shops! The expense is worth having something for people to see and do!
- I doubt many visitors come because of the village but may visit the village if in town.
- There are very few manned historical villages like this around. I think it's a unique opportunity for visitors to talk with volunteers about elements they see during their Village visit.

**Q2. Do you believe the Village provides economic benefit to your business, either directly or indirectly**

Yes: 22.22% No: 77.78%

Comments:

- It doesn't provide any economic benefit, and the money that the Council spends could be much better spent on something that actually benefits the town as a whole, like the main street redevelopment. Or the embarrassment that is the caravan park. Half of Loxton seems to go to the Renmark Caravan park during the school holidays, we should be working on getting half of Renmark to Loxton instead!
- I think visitor numbers would have to increase significantly for us to notice an economic benefit to our business.

**Q3. Would you like to see the Village remain a feature of Loxton but with modifications to reduce the financial burden**

Yes: 88.89% No: 11.11%

Comments:

- I don't think the Village adds much to the town at all, but if it has to remain it should be making money for the Council and should most definitely not be a financial drain.
- The Village needs to be more in your face, somewhere where people can't miss it. (I know this would be huge ask)
- If that was possible but I have no idea how that would work.
- As a rate payer I'd be happy to pay the price it is now.
- I personally would like to see how \$176 000 is spent each year to run the Village. As a business owner I fail to see how this money is needed to run a volunteer run organisation
- I think it's time is past and they need to move on or make major changes to make it profitable, turn homes into rental accommodation or something!!
- Again, the modifications need to be carefully considered so they don't diminish the value of attending the Village.

**Q4. Would you prefer Council lease the Village to reduce the financial burden**

Yes: 61.11% No: 38.89%

Comments:

- It's ridiculous that it loses so much money every year, it should be at least cost neutral.
- The council seems to have tried to improve numbers but maybe it's beyond them???
- But why would anyone take that on knowing its current financial situation?
- Loss of control and quality may reduce! It's our local history
- If possible
- Who would bother though
- This is difficult to say, as it's possible that the Village will be shut down while waiting for a leasee to take over.

**Q5. Would you like to see a reduced history display created, and an alternate use considered for the current site?**

Yes: 56.25% No: 43.75%

Comments:

- A cafe or bar on the riverfront would be awesome!
- Prime riverfront that may be better utilized. Sunday morning coffee on the river front, what more could you want.
- The current site could be used for alternative businesses but the history should still be retained.
- This prime piece of real estate certainly has the potential to be home to other cafes etc that would be a drawcard in the town. The river front in Loxton certainly needs to have something like a restaurant that attract locals and visitors.
- A possibility if we can't keep the village as is. But you then lose a tourism attraction
- The site is very valuable real estate. It would make a prime site for a cafe or similar thus opening and using our water front. This would be a huge benefit tourism wise.
- Alternate use considered for the current site
- Not sure
- The village has had it's day, I actually did my wedding photo's there in 88, if it can't be turned profitable with changes then it has to go, auction everything off and start again with something modern and attractive to the younger generation..
- That would be a shame to remove the items donated and the hours upon hours of time spent constructing and maintaining the displays.
- When historical village was first set up, there was no plans for it to be self funded & now down the track it turns out to be costing \$176000 to run. this would be in line with any similar tourist attraction. Village must stay & cost to run monitored & kept to a minimum. Reduce funding to tourism ( to offset Village running costs)

## 2016 Christmas Twilight Trading

*Feedback received from 7 East Terrace traders regarding special Thursday night trading prior to Christmas on 22 December 2016 to 9pm. Additional activities included Santa's Cave open 6-8pm, roving carollers, gift wrapping service and Santa Cinema in Library from 6pm.*

- Late night trade was good for us but died by 8.30pm. I thought the roaming carollers were a beautiful touch as were the other ideas. As a busy parent, the week leading up to Xmas is filled with so many other commitments that to find time to actually sit & watch a movie outside of your own home seems like an impossible luxury to me!!! A beautiful idea but not sure if it was the right week to do it...(maybe I am just not the right person either to give any sort of comment regarding the pre Xmas week!!!!) Well done to all.
- Overall I think the Chamber advertising has been good. Late night trading was not very successful. My thoughts are that we should promote the last Sunday before Christmas. A lot of stores traded last Sunday and I know I traded better on Sunday then the late night Trade. Trading till 2.00pm on Saturdays is OK but I could live without it. Our trade from 12.00 till 2.00pm is very slow.
- We had people in the store almost all the time between 5:30 & 7:30 We had 6 sales between 5:30 & 6:30, 9 between 6:30 & 7:30 then nothing until 8:30 when we had two more sales. After 8:00 was mostly just groups of kids wandering in and out. We closed about 8:58
- We had a busy day in store yesterday, but the evening (extended hours) was fairly quiet. We would try again next year, perhaps it takes a little while for customers to know that the extended hours were happening.
- It was definitely not worth opening for us and many people have said to me that they didn't know about it. If late night trading isn't associated with a function of some sort I don't believe it will succeed. Also late

Saturdays haven't worked by 12.30 the street is very quiet we closed early due to no customers. We didn't open late last Sunday just 8 till 12 our normal hours

- We weren't very busy past 6pm.
- I don't think the weather could have been better and the atmosphere in the main street was excellent. Despite this, trade was slow and there didn't appear to be many cars and shoppers from 5.30-8.30pm. The Christmas trade for the pharmacy during the extended hours has been unfortunately poor (we opened all Saturdays and last night). Realistically it gave me an opportunity to clear Christmas stock but it didn't justify the extra wages.