



DUNGOG DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Taking care of Business*

## NEWSLETTER

April 2021

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### Dear Members

I hope you are all well and that you have not been adversely affected by the recent extreme weather conditions. If any members have been negatively impacted by the recent heavy rainfall and need assistance, please do let me know if there is anything that the DDCC community can do to assist you.

Hopefully the updates relating to the 'big wet' I have been forwarding from various government agencies have been useful to you. I have certainly found the detailed updates from our local National Parks Ranger, Liam, regarding the condition of road and park facilities valuable.

Latest update from Liam at National Parks:

*Please note the Corker trail has been reopened allowing access to Wombat Creek and Black Swamp campgrounds from the south. Williams Top Rd is closed so access is via Allyn River Rd (as per Alert below).*

*Rocky Crossing walk remains closed until assessments are undertaken.*

*We had a very busy weekend in the day use areas with Williams River and Jerusalem Creek carparks full at times.*

### DINNER MEETINGS

Our dinner meeting at Dungog Royal Hotel hosted by Howard and Andrew was a great evening with over 40 attendees. We were treated to a tour of the refurbished accommodation rooms and a fabulous meal catered for by Meg's Kitchen.

Guest speaker on the night, Inspector Dan Skelly of Raymond Terrace Police, gave an explanation of policing in our shire. This was in response to concerns the Chamber had expressed at the lack of round the clock policing, which was brought to light with anti-social and threatening behaviour by groups at night in Dowling Street. He explained our crime statistics were not bad enough to warrant round the clock policing when compared to our neighbours in towns like Raymond Terrace and Maitland. Inspector Skelly's take home message to us was to ensure we do report non-emergency situations through the Police Help Line (131444) as all reports are collected in the crime statistics and this can lead to greater police attention. Obviously if it is an emergency, calling 000 should be the first option.

Our second guest speaker was Cr Kate Murphy who gave an excellent overview of the happenings and the workings at Dungog Common. Kate explained the responsibilities of the Common Trust Board (on which she is a member), Ride Dungog's association with the Common and the activities of the Common Landcare group.

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We are extremely fortunate to have hard working people in the community giving their time in various volunteer rolls, to make the Common an exciting and attractive place for visitors and locals alike to walk, ride or just enjoy a quiet beautiful spot right on the edge of the town.

**Our next dinner meeting will be at the Flying Duck in Vacy on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.** The Flying Duck has been brought back to life by Linda and Peter of Vacy Village Motel and is operating one night a week. We look forward to sampling their hospitality. Invitations to go out very soon.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

We are fortunate to have Rachel Hammond for Hunter Region Business Hub return to Dungog this Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April where she is conducting one hour, one on one training in social media with local businesses. We have had a good take up of this event. If you would like to be involved please contact Rochelle [digital@huntervalleyhub.com.au](mailto:digital@huntervalleyhub.com.au).

We also had several businesses take up the opportunity last month, of speaking with Cheryl Royle from Entrepreneurship Facilitator – Hunter Region. Cheryl is prepared to come to Dungog on a regular basis and meet with business owners or those proposing to go into business. You can contact Cheryl via email at [cheryl@thefinerline.com.au](mailto:cheryl@thefinerline.com.au).

## NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

We welcome the following businesses who have recently joined or rejoined:

Curlew Cottage

Dungog Coffee Bean

Hard's Property Services

## DDDCC BUSINESS AWARDS 2021

Business awards will return this year with a slightly new look. Nominations will open in May with the program culminating in the awards night on Saturday 24th July 2021 at Clarence Town School of Arts. It is a great opportunity to showcase our local businesses and their employees. More information will be sent to members over the coming weeks.

## INVESTMENT NSW

An exert from information sent from Ian Smith, Office of Regional Economic Development . Click on link to bring up full details of this department's activities.

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*Just a reminder that the [Regional Job Creation Fund](#) closes for applications on **14 May 2021**. We have received an amazing response to date but it is not too late for businesses to apply so please keep in touch with your local Business Development Manager or feel free to reach out directly if you have questions.*

I look forward to catching up with members at the next dinner meeting.

Marion Stuart  
DDCC President

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