

Sunbury Business Association News

Live Sunbury, Shop Sunbury



LIVE SUNBURY, SHOP SUNBURY
SUNBURY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

September 2013 – Issue 5

IDEAS SHARING FORUM

On the 4th September the Sunbury Business Association held an Ideas Sharing Forum at the Goonawarra Golf Club primarily to address local business concerns and ideas for the Sunbury business district, but also for the purpose of providing the opportunity for networking. I would like to thank all of those who attended, and also the great speakers we had on the night.

In a summary of the night, we had Joel Farrell from Hume City Council speak first. He announced that the Council is currently developing a new long-term community plan for the City and is just about to commence consultation with service providers, community groups, businesses and general community members around the types of strategies or actions which could be incorporated into the plan. This follows a round of community consultation undertaken between February and June this year, which involved over 800 participants and 4,000 comments which identified key priority areas. He covered how business can get involved and provide feedback to the Council.

Bruce Marshall, also from Hume City Council, raised topics such as:

- The Council has a strong relationship with the Sunbury Business Association and by working together a number of projects have been able to be delivered to the Sunbury Business community. Of course, there are times that the SBA doesn't agree with Council, and the direct and honest feedback from SBA helps inform Council decisions. This honest and healthy relationship is a reflection of the diverse mix of SBA committee members that all share the same goal of making Sunbury a better place to do business.
- SBA letters of support have helped Council receive numerous grants for delivery of projects into the Sunbury Town Centre.
- The installation of the CCTV cameras in the Sunbury Town Centre has commenced. This State Government funded project will see over 20 cameras installed in 5 locations. SBA's lobbying in support of the cameras was influential in the project proceeding.
- **EVENTS:** There are a number of upcoming events which the Sunbury business community can capitalise on:
 - Hume Festival of Music 3-13 October: A range of events are being held across Hume City with the big festival closing event being held at Sunbury Village Green on 13th October with Kate Ceberano.
 - Sunbury Region Wine & Food Festival 27th October: Being held at Rupertswood Mansion, the new format for the wine festival will bring all the wineries together in the same central location.
 - Sunbury Street Life Festival 24th November: A new event being held in O'Shanassy Street that will see market stalls and activities.
 - Dean Jones Event @ Rupertswood 10th December: An event is being planned by Dean Jones at Rupertswood Mansion to coincide with the Ashes Series in Australia. More announcements about this event will be made soon.

Introducing a new, innovative and integrated industrial relations and human resource management consulting firm known as Australian Workplace Relations was Steve Hutton.

Australian Workplace Relations specialises in assisting employers in all matters associated with their workforce. The firm's services are geared to enable employers to successfully operate in an ever changing and increasingly complex regulatory workplace environment.

The core value of their business is to provide personalised and customised workplace relations advice and services that are designed to support the business direction and the strategic goals of the client.

IDEAS SHARING FORUM – CONT.

They aim to provide solutions for some of the issues employers are being faced with, such as:

- Ever increasing costs of running a business that employs people
- Increased claims of unfair dismissal, adverse actions, bullying or discriminatory practices
- An increasing army of Fair Work Inspectors auditing and charging employers with compliance breaches
- Contact changes to the rules and imposing more and more responsibilities on employers.

At the end of the night we had the main Ideas Sharing Forum, where the many concerns and ideas of Sunbury businesses were raised and discussed. In no particular order they were:

- Lack of customers
- Bigger market share
- More local jobs for local people
- Lack of **skilled** workers in Sunbury
- Lack of events/entertainment to draw people to Sunbury
- Local paper > to be part of the community
- Use of Notice boards/tourist centre/etc
- Consolidate the various websites – have a directory of business
- Parking in Evans St
 - Biz owners taking up spaces
- Courses on merchandising
 - Advertising/marketing
- Access to courses for Jobseekers in Sunbury
- Sunbury “Jobs Fair” – involve bigger employers such as ‘MASTERS’
 - Reskilling
- Funding opportunities for employers
- Community awareness - 3NRG
- With Hume City Council > new home owners > welcome vouchers
- Local ads
- SBA > contract “Job Prospects”
 - Funding to develop F/B, etc
 - Work for Dole
- Attract bigger business to Sunbury
- Market Sunbury as a destination
- Awareness

If you have more to add to this, then please email sba@sunbury.org.au with your thoughts, concerns and what you believe needs to be done.

The Sunbury Business Association AGM will be held on Wednesday 13th November upstairs at the Olive Tree Hotel. Please express your interest if you would like to attend and have your voice and opinion heard.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the S.B.A is only \$60 for a full financial year. Please reply to this email if you are not a member but would like to be.

ISSUES FACING SMALL BUSINESS

Please make us aware of the issues you are facing running your business. We may not have the solution for you right now, but we give you our word that we will look into it for you.

If you have any ideas or thoughts on how we, the S.B.A, can assist you then PLEASE let us know.



sba@sunbury.org.au