

**Minutes of the General Meeting
of the Oberon Business and Tourism Association Inc
held on September 13 2023
Oberon RSL**

Meeting declared open at 6.10pm

Present Justin Enright (in the Chair), Shanaya Stapleton, Diana Crabb, Don Capel, Jenn Capel, Debra Keane, Chris Milne, Cr Helen Hayden, Jacqui Harman, Andrew LeLievre, Pam Dellow, Brian Dellow

Apologies Vicki Walsh, Liz Memory, Kelly Robinson, Simmone Logue, Robyn Richard, Barry Richard, Michael Richard, Tim Charge, Fran Charge, Warwick Mawhood, Pat Bird Jr, Mary David, Helen Lowe, Jill O'Grady, Don Kirk

Welcome to the meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted on the motion of Pam Dellow and seconded by Jenn Capel. Motion carried.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

After last meeting, Justin wrote to Council expressing OBTA's support for the brochure following Deb's request.

Don raised that no action was taken at last meeting regarding Google maps issue.

Don moved "that OBTA write to Council asking for a sign to be placed directing people to Town Centre." Andrew and Jacqui seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence

In

Debra Keane sent corro in asking for OBTA to send a letter regarding their support of the brochure. Responded accordingly with Corro Out.

Out

Letter to Council regarding OBTA's support of brochure.

Treasurer's Report

Justin delivered the report

Two new memberships for Essington Park and Chris Milne.

Outgoing for the website-SEO work.

Cheque Account- \$9,074.81 Term deposit- \$45,974.20 total current assets of \$55,049.01

Jenn recently raised that we should give the non-financial members on the mailing list another opportunity to rejoin the organisation. Will action this accordingly.

Motion Moved: Andrew Seconded: Don "That the Treasurer's report be accepted." Carried.

Council Delegate's Report

Councillor Helen Hayden gave the report tonight.

New concrete steps have been installed near gym and pool to make the slope more manageable. Hand rails being added soon.

Lowes Mount Road continuing. Work being done to reshape the hill- no further widening to be done due to koala habitat.

Repairs at Black Springs Hall have been completed. Spark Electrical to attend and add power to stove.

5th of September Councillors did a tour of northern side of the LGA.

Black Springs Community Association is holding a “Back to the 80s” dance at Black Springs Hall on 21st October. Fancy dress prices, fundraising for the Black Springs Hall.

Black Springs Community Association will be hosting carols on 9 December, 2023 from 5:30pm. Their Christmas party will also be held on that date.

St Aidens church holding carols on 24 December.

Reef amenities are nearing completion.

4 November 2023- AMSAG rally coming to Black Springs.

Brian asked if Council had considered road proposal for Paling Yards for the transportation of the wind turbines. Cr Hayden answered that “No, it won’t come before Council. It is State Government area so Council won’t get to consider this. Helen thinks it is too expensive and too much work to upgrade roads, so probably won’t proceed anyway.

Tourism and Economic Development Manager Report

Debra Keane delivered the report.

Regional Drought Resilience Plan is on at moment- Australian Government funding. Looks at the effect of drought from farmers right through to accommodation and cafés and how we could reduce effects in the community, as a whole. Other groups have come up with some agritourism initiatives to encourage farmers to expand in some ways to reduce effects. Other areas have planted more trees to reduce effects. The project is community driven, so action is only taken if there is something the community wants and can use. WSP-their contractor may email businesses asking if you would be willing to be involved in stakeholder consultations.

Small Business Seminar at RedGround on 19 October 2023 from 5pm-9pm. Please join us, will include a wine tasting and canapes, seminars on cyber security by Austrade, Online business and how to expand on this by Business HQ. Will cover a lot and be a good night.

14 October 2023- NAIDOC day at the Common from 10am-2pm.

21 September- Industry Development Workshop at the RSL from 3pm-7pm.

On 31 August Jenn and Deb went to Mudgee for the conference on cycling routes around Central West. Oberon not taken very seriously - very Mudgee centric. Used to have Kanangra Classic which was successful, so would be good to get something happening.

Lots of events upcoming for the Outdoor Festival.

28th-29th November- there will be a two day 4WD tagalong tour of Kanangra-Boyd NP and Yerranderie.

4-5th November- is the Open Gardens which OBTA has previously supported.

11th November Sip and Splash at Renzaglia Winery from 11am-3pm

18th November Black Springs Heritage Tour

26th November Teddy Bears picnic from 10-2pm at the Common
2nd and 3rd of December – Redfin Roundup from 7am- shaping up to be another great year.

Jenn asked about the Kanangra Classic that used to run- was it successful?

Deb confirmed they are trying to organise a fun run through there next year but are still in discussion with National Parks to see if they can go ahead. Have someone organised for times etc already.

Jacqui asked if anyone has looked in to the changes to the management of the Kanangra-Boyd National Park. May be worth checking out, as may affect the way we have in the park moving forward, if it is managed elsewhere. Most of the group was not aware of this proposal. Would mean part of the Kanangra NP annexed by Blue Mountains National Parks. Proposal on display at Katoomba to view.

Review by 26 September 2023- Chris found it on Facebook. They are accepting submissions on the proposal until 26 September 2023.

General Business

Jenn Capel provided a thorough report to the meeting on electric vehicle charging stations-report attached to minutes.

Proposed that OBTA publicly support EV installation in our town, offered assistance of up to \$1500 per charger for each business installing chargers, and lobby Council to support EV charger installation.

Councillor Hayden was concerned about who is responsible for costs of charger, insurance costs, risk of fires with charges and that Oberon didn't need to do anything to gain tourists. Jenn said we need to encourage people to stay overnight in Oberon and charge their cars.

Jacqui and Diana expressed that they have had experiences with people cancelling accommodation due to no overnight charging or having to drive back to Lithgow when they realised they couldn't charge here.

Andrew said Jenolan Caves has two chargers and is currently installing a further 7 chargers. Don said that the number of EVs on the road is increasing exponentially and the Government is encouraging this increase, so Oberon needs to get involved. It is important to Oberon, the district and the businesses of Oberon.

Jacqui confirmed that Jenn's report regarding Destination NSW designing a route that includes towns with chargers is interesting and will have a big impact. Oberon needs to be involved and on that route or travellers will not come to Oberon, if they can't charge.

Justin agreed that there is a political push for this and Oberon needs to be equipped to cater for these tourists. But we may need to digest further how much we should offer in support-needs to be some kind of capped amount or cap per business.

Jenn agreed- she did not expect Jenolan Caves to be installing so many. We would not want one business to blow out our whole budget, so need to consider how much OBTA could offer financially.

The meeting agreed that we want to endorse positive moves for EV chargers both with Council and members.

Jenn- moved the following:

- 1. "That OBTA publicly support installation of EV chargers in Oberon.*
- 2. Encourage Oberon Council to support installation of EV chargers.*
- 3. Give consideration to future assistance to members to undertake installation."*

Chris seconded.

Motion carried.

Andrew provided an update on Jenolan Caves- from 1 September it is now open until 10pm on Friday and Saturday nights. Come down for dinner- 25% discount on food for locals. Road is open under traffic control but anyone is welcome to come down for a meal and a drink.

Jacqui raised that on the weekends she is having to direct multiple cars to The Reef to access the Lake Oberon. Need a sign saying access to the lake is via The Reef, so that it is clear.
Add this issue to letter to Council regarding the sign to Town Centre. Needs to say "access to lake via The Reef"

It is a safety issue- with heavy vehicles on Harvey's Lane- shouldn't have tourists on that road trying to find lake access.

Helen asked if OBTA had given consideration to financial support for the End of Year Spectacular. The meeting agreed that we need more info on what support is needed, will take under consideration and carry over to next meeting for more information.

Justin went to an Orange Business NSW meeting last week. Quite short notice but got a call saying new minister, Tara Moriati was flying in and out. Few people there. Was a controlled Q and A and they left as soon as official part over. Said they want to be involved and be out in community.

Discussion with others there after- seems that there was neutral opinions on state of economy at best- not positive or extremely negative- very neutral.

Jenn raised that last month Kelly Robinson did two hours of work on the Visit Oberon website with her business, My Sassy Business. Did a great job- 8,000 visits to site last month. Not sure what it was in previous months- may be able to check that data for us. Would like to improve website – have spent very little on the website in the last 5 years, needs some upgrades. Kelly charges \$150 an hour. Everyone agreed two hours at that price seemed reasonable.

Jenn moved "that My Sassy Business be employed on a continuing basis for two hours per month for 3 months before reviewing if ongoing maintenance is needed."

*Seconded- Jacqui
Carried.*

The meeting was declared closed at 7:22pm.

President _____

Date _____