

**Minutes of the General Meeting**  
**Of the Oberon Business and Tourism Association Inc**  
**Held on November 8 2023**  
**Oberon RSL**

**Meeting declared open at 603pm**

**Present** Justin Enright (in the Chair), Daina Reid, Debra Keane, Mary David, Helen Hayden, Don Capel, Jenn Capel, Barry Richard, Chris Milne, Brian Dellow, Pam Dellow, Vicki Walsh, Kelly Robinson, Helen Lowe, Sue Roberts,

**Apologies** Shanaya Stapleton, Pat Bird Jr, M. Richard, Bruce Watt

Welcome to the meeting. Thank you to Daina Reid for stepping in as scribe for Shanaya today.

**Minutes of the previous meeting** were read and accepted on the motion of Don Capel, seconded by Pam Dellow. Motion Carried.

**Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

A request for OBTA to write a letter to Council about issues re pedestrian crossing in Oberon Street and the pedestrian light and accessibility for carparks. Letter has gone to council.

Meeting voted in favour of supporting Council for \$600. Council issued invoice and cheque has been issued to Council. All processed.

Don Capel raised the issue with letter to council for signs. No response received from Council so far. Justin has not received response. Helen says Council has had discussion. Helen can bring something back regarding that by next meeting.

**Correspondence**

**In**

Cursory letters from school community from Oberon Public School and Black Springs. Expect another couple will come in soon.

Justin requested expression on how OBTA is to support schools to be actioned after meeting. Requesting support. Helen requests what we have provided in the past. Justin said support was constant but hiked it last year. It was \$150 for the historical amount. We equalized it last year to about \$100 - \$150 across the board. Helen happy to move motion to make donations at the same level as 2022 year. Don Capel seconded. OBTA support the schools to the same amount as the 2022 year for their end of year prize giving. \$100 per school. Motion carried.

**Out**

Letter to Council regarding pedestrian issue and park issue. Awaiting response.

**Treasurer's Report**

Justin delivered the report.

Vicki has been to dentist so unable to discuss.

Profit and Loss – membership renewals gone out. A lot have paid already. Unpaid is about 24 people. More than 50% already paid.

Since last meeting, items that have gone out, paid are council contribution for tourism brochure program. OBTA agreed to contribute \$5000. Small business month contribution. Some SEO costs. That is all.

Year to date since 1 July – surplus of \$578 to date.

This includes the \$2000 that OBTA agreed would be supported to Oberon Chamber Musical Festival.

Compared to same time last year, difference is the \$5000 and \$2000 payments.

Don Capel requested monthly income amounts. Justin unable to give figures at this stage. Justin can provide separately. Don Capel would like to know how much has come in.

Accounts paid – Council contribution of \$5000 and \$600, SEO support \$600, \$2000 music chamber festival. that is all this month.

Account - \$14,578.00. Term deposit - \$46,155.00

If renewals paid, another \$4075.00.

Jill O’Grady has not received renewal notice. Don Capel received reminder notices despite having already paid. Don Capel asked why he is receiving reminders. Justin advised until payment has been receipted, they will receive notifications. Don commented this not does not look very professional.

*Motion Moved by Helen Lowe. Seconded by Sue Roberts.*

### **Council Delegates report**

Hampton road works at the moment. Contractors for Transport NSW undertaking survey works to inform rehab works for Jenolan Caves Roads. Carrying out survey works to inform next phase of discovery works for disaster relief. Detours in place from 7 November to 9 November between 930 and 2pm weather permitting. Jenolan Caves closed from 7 November. Detour via Oberon, Hampton and Lithgow. Adds 1hour40 mins extra travel time.

Will send details to OBTA.

Events in swing in October.

Saturday 4 and 5 November – 150 anniversary for Oberon Uniting Methodist Church. memorabilia display showing historical records and history of church. On Sunday a service was held at the Uniting Church. Article to put in paper.

No less than 3 events on each day of weekend in the region. No lack of any events. It has minimized attendance.

October 31, General Manager and Mayor and Helen attended Rural Doctors Network Regional Health Community and Regional Engagement workshop at Forbes. 11 councils present to collaborate and inform effective state of play arising from recent funding. Productive day. 11 councils identified gaps in community health systems. Identified strengths and weaknesses. Looked at models of service delivery. Looking at how corporate model falls short. Difficulties of telehealth but advantages as well. A lot of constructive and useful information.

Not a lot of information available on local road network. Technical Services Director left council and relocated to Bathurst Council.

Current position is advertised. Should have some news later this month for new director.

Accessible playground in Oberon common now completed. Available for access.

Katie Graham Councilor – end of year spectacular to be better with 45 stall holders, up from 15 last year. To tell OBTA there is no current funding for end of year event. Would OBTA be interested in providing funding.

This Saturday Remembrance Day with event at War Memorial at 11am.

Saturday 18 November – rededication ceremony of living treasures wall. 3 plaques lost in postal transport have been replaced. Unsure if will show up in time. Still have ceremony. 10am. Everyone invited. On Sunday 19 November O'Connell Hotel having formal grand opening at 2pm. Changed from Saturday.

16 November – attending the regions rising conference in Orange. Focusing on issues re housing, education, health and childcare. Tara Moriarty to do key note address.

### **Tourism and Economic Development Manager Report**

Debra Keane delivered report.

Money from OBTA received for brochure. First round of requests for advertising gone out to OBTA members,

Will send out to all businesses shortly.

Moved to visitor information Centre on Monday and the refurbishment looks lovely. A whole new lot of merchandise.

Small Business month – feedback received is that everyone found it worthwhile and a lot of compliments about venue. 4 good speakers. thank you to OBTA for funding. 40 seats subscribed for event. Great turnout.

Oberon Outdoor festival – teddy bears picnic – bring teddy and picnic. Sausage sizzle being held. Face painting, petting zoo, games, a judging o discussion over discussion of best teddy bear.

The Drought Resilience grant – community consultations come to conclusion. Thank you to those who attended. They have done back to a smaller focus group to discuss the essence of discussion at first round. A list of 7 actions to progress with is to come out to assist in resilience of whole community

Field to Forest- starting to patch together. Runs from March to end of April. During that time we have foraging, fossicking, ,mushrooming, different experiences around town. To fossick out in the wild and how to do safely.

Kelly requested info re advertising. Is 10% for OBTA members. Confirmed it is for early birds in general. OBTA has first right to that.

Jenn Capel asked if there is any info re response from advertising. No response received as yet.

Any feedback on open garden – update using QR code and pre-booking was quiet. Had reasonable outcome on day and reasonable people in town. Local farmers market on so people were in town. Economically very handy event for the town. Something well worth supporting.

Jenn spoke to garden club members and they were very happy with event and the response.

### **EV Charger Report**

Jenn Capel reported on EV chargers. Delegating to Chris Milne.

Have met and done homework on exercise.

Government funding round has opened. They will pay 75% of supply and installation of EV chargers that fit within bounds of criteria.

Resolved going forward is hold fire on OBTA providing funds and OBTA come forward at providing information and assistance rather than cash.

A workshop possibly to be held in December because funding closes in May 2024.

Normal government funding process. Completed online.

To get launched – to have workshop presentation and get some speakers. Agenda would be welcome, intro to EV charges, why do you want them, different types, things to consider, electrician to speak, eligibility requirements for grant

Will speak to Council about their strategy, papers are prepared that have highlighted areas in Oberon.

Look at support OBTA might provide. If people get grants, there will be contracts. Perhaps people to seek legal advice.

Questionnaire may need to be prepared to see interest and questions.

There is a benefit to tourism to have EV chargers. Spoke to a business owner, they had 1 person come. This is a question for the future.

Council is interested in funding up to 4 chargers in main town area. Helen cannot confirm. To be further investigated.

Looking for endorsement for subcommittee to move forward on this matter. Will be speaking to Destination NSW for funding as well.

To show OBTA has given value to the process.

OBTA to offer assistance with anyone attempting to apply for funding. OBTA to provide information and assistance where needed.

Venue – Community Centre proposed or the library. Wherever they can find space

Jenn – Proposal is that the Committee Organize a workshop to be held on first Wednesday of December (6 December 2023). 2 our workshop. In the evening so that business owners can attend. If OBTA prepared to support proposal, will immediately start organizing speakers. To engage OBTA members as to whether EV chargers are of benefit to them. For OBTA to provide \$500 funding in case we cant get sponsorship from Destination NSW.

Motion proposed by Jenn and Chris and Jill,. Motion Carried.

### **General Business**

Justin speaks about correspondence from Helen Lowe to Justin about OBTA supporting an initiative for Christmas Event. Helen Lowe raised whether we can run event similar to last year, a Saturday super shopper draw. Businesses would issue their customers with receipt. Write name and number on docket. Drop into drop point. Dockets gathered up in afternoon. The podium event held in main street. Suggesting something similar. It is relatively easier to run. Prizes of 10 lots of \$500 worth of shop vouchers. Mary has offered to assist. Need an event at the podium. Encourages support at local businesses. We have \$18000 reserve in voucher account. Has used \$5000 worth of it. Proposed this is an excellent idea by most members. The vouchers can only be redeemed in town. Businesses are not obliged to accept them as currency. Business get vouchers. They apply to us. They get payment for vouchers. Printed on voucher that only redeemable in Oberon.

Helen moved motion. Don Capel seconded motion. Motion carried.

Helen Hayden – referring to end of year festival. Are business interested in decorating windows with Christmas theme on 16 December 2023 for carols and events. Good to see businesses get in with theme. Is there a way OBTA could ask businesses to get involved. Those that are members to get involved. Jill suggested a prize for best shop display. Helen enquired whether OBTA would offer that. No funding for the organizers of the event. Organiser would appreciate some help from OBTA. Justin confirmed need some incentive for people to get involved. Perhaps some vouchers or money. Need constant messaging to get it out to people. Helen queried whether a prize is necessary. Helen suggested even just a certificate. Don suggested a \$100 local docket for the winner. Helen says perhaps OBTA could start a trophy. Chris suggested a photo in the Review for advertising. Jill suggested obtaining a celebrity to host the competition. Helen would like to see OBTA put something forward, a certificate and do judging of shopfronts and be encouraged to be involved. Need a volunteer who will write editorial, organize a judge and arrange date times. Jill and Neil offered to do it together. Editorial can be emailed out. \$200 worth of shop local vouchers for the winner. Proposed by Jenn.

Motion that OBTA initiate a shopfront window display competition. OBTA will support winner to tune of \$200 in vouchers. Neil and Jill to take carriage.

Motion carried.

Debra Keane asked about last AGM. AGM will be held in December. Actions at AGM will be election of office bearers and presentation of financial accounts and general business arising.

Jenn Capel – December is usual Christmas meeting with special event. Vicki suggested Essington Park. Someone to host dinner for members. Does Essington have a limit on numbers? Unsure. Helen suggests she can host 100 to 150. Vicki will volunteer to find out. Shortlist is Essington Park, Mayfield Park, Jenolan Caves. Event last year was at Mayfield Gardens. Suggestion of Woldarra and Bindo Creek Cabins and Lake Oberon Estate. Vicki will investigate. Jenn to liaise with Vicki.

Neil – with AGM is there a call for nominations. Yes there is. Standard protocol. 21 days notice of meeting to be given. e

**The meeting was declared closed at 702pm**