

President's Report

Monday 10th May saw a group of enthusiastic local Business owners attend the York Business Association's AGM held at the Imperial Hotel on Avon Terrace.

The meeting saw a few changes to Office Bearers and the following volunteers now make up your committee.

President: Karen Thomas Innovation

Vice President: Melissa Welsh

Committee: Rebecca Marwick, Julian Krieg, Nola Bliss and the two ladies from Gather York, Amber and Fi make up the dedicated team!

General plans for the coming year were outlined and a commitment was made to work with all other community groups for everyone's mutual benefit. It was also decided to organise some open meetings with guest speakers and to invite all local businesses plus meetings to be held at a member's premises to enable us to understand the services offered by them so we can promote them with confidence by outlining these benefits.

The first open meeting was a Forum with guest speakers held on Tuesday 22nd June at Faversham House attended by twenty five members and guests. We heard from Brant Jansen from Byfields Business Advisers who gave an informative presentation entitled Top 5 tips for Business and Colin Grant outlined the rights and obligations of

those renting Commercial Premises. Both presentations were enthusiastically received with lots of great questions and discussion. The highlight of the evening was when we adjourned to the lounge afterwards where we enjoyed some great refreshments and food supplied by the talented team that is Gather York. This made a perfect opportunity to network & exchange some ideas. Many thanks to Nola and Richard for the use of their gorgeous venue! And thanks to all those who attended, we hope you got lots of benefit from a very pleasant evening.

The first step towards working with other groups saw Jenny Garroun President of the Wheatbelt Arts and Events Organisation invited to our YBA committee meeting to explain the plans for the upcoming Festival. Wheatbelt Arts and Events, led by Jenny, are to be congratulated on securing a fantastic grant from the Federal Government Rise scheme to secure the Festival for the next two years. This grant ensures there will be some paid positions to assist the great team of volunteers that it takes to put on such a major, important event annually. This is great news for York and the best part is it will see the return of the Jazz Festival that so many people remember York for from the 1990's. Yours truly included! This is great news so please spread the word. The rest of the programme will be circulated over the next few weeks but it will include a Writer's Festival, the popular Medieval Festival and a new section featuring Lost and endangered crafts! Exciting times ahead and the YBA is committed to assisting in anyway we can. Watch this space!

BUSINESS NEWS

Just a reminder or two about recent changes that will affect a lot of businesses of all sizes.

The budget saw a major change with Superannuation now payable for all employees however many hours they work including all casuals. This could make some extra paperwork for employers who up to now have not been liable for superannuation payments for staff working limited hours. Any problems and a quick chat with your accountant will sort it out.

Also a reminder that the rate starts to increase from the 1st July to 10% by the first of several half percent increases over the next few years to bring the rate up to 12%.

The other major change is the increase to the minimum wage by the Fair Work Commission of 2.5% which will be phased in over several weeks but most awards will increase from 1st July with the exception of the general retail award that will increase from 1st September (just in time for Christmas) The Restaurant award and Hospitality awards increase from 1st November.

The other news that will undoubtedly have flow on effects are the changes made with the UK regarding new trade agreements now Britain has left Brexit!

I am sure lots of you remember the ramifications when Britain joined the Common Market all those years ago and how that put a big hole in a lot of our exports, perhaps we can regain some of this business. If not we can at least look forward to imports of Penguin biscuits and Marmite, can't wait!!

Agriculture could be the loser with the requirement for back packers to work in the country abandoned and the age lifted to 35yrs for the 3 year working visa. There will be a new Agricultural Visa aimed mainly at the countries in our immediate geographic area. It will be interesting to watch how this develops especially as the back packers have been very thin on the ground since the onset of COVID!!

As usual lots to consider for those of us running businesses. Don't forget if you have specific issues you would like help with let us know and we will either organise a workshop or do our best to put you in contact with someone who can help.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these new members, please check them out and give them and all our members your support

Roni and Greg at Sewelly's spanners

Sue Hudson at Oma's Cottage Crafts

Colin Grant Real Estate

Byfields Business Advisers

It's great to have these extra people on board and a reminder if you haven't renewed your membership the committee amended our fees so that membership will now be 1st July to 30th June (financial year) so you can simply pay now and you have had a couple of months free! Bargain!

Please support us as some extra funds would be very welcome for projects we have planned and put to good use to promote York as a great destination for a visit anytime of the year as well as a great place for locals to get involved and enjoy the benefits of our lovely town.



Did you hear about the blonde who went into the Bendigo Bank and said to the teller 'I would like to open a joint account please.'

Teller replies "No problem madam, who will you be opening it with"?

Blonde, "Anyone who has a serious lot of money please"

**Do you think glass coffins would be a good idea?
Remains to be seen!**

I finally plucked up courage to tell my suitcases there will be no overseas holidays for some time yet, now I have to deal with the emotional baggage.

**And finally, for all of those of us in the wonderful world of retail remember this –
Selling is the most exciting thing you can do with your clothes on!!**

Happy selling and stay safe!

York talk

We would also like to welcome two new Galleries in town, one in the gorgeous Masonic Hall and the other in the old "Grannies" building. Both properties have been sold and are currently being transformed into a brand new look! We look forward to their contribution to the town, undoubtedly we are fast becoming a must visit destination for Art Lovers!

Janine and Stephen are not leaving us and have moved into a new home in town and have been busy settling in and taming the rather overgrown garden! Janine will keep up the good work re-the dances she organises but may leave us in the Summer to spend some time with her mother and family in Tasmania.

Is it just our garden where the weeds seem to have been on steroids? The rain has been great though and everything is looking healthy which is handy as the Open Garden Event is going to be held again this year in October, so better get out there and start sprucing up the plot! More details later.

How good is the new Mitre 10 store! Great range of product and lovely staff. We wish them success and hope they get strong local patronage! Make sure you pop in and check them out.

Gallery 152 has a new exhibition from 26th June and Innovation showcased the impeccable work of their upholsterer Parker Interiors at the Arts and Crafts fair held in the Town hall 26th/27th June which is another addition to the ever growing calendar of events being held in York.

The next major project for YBA is promoting the second Saturday in each month as York Market Day with promotions, specials and demonstrations throughout the town to encourage people to come not just for the Peace park Markets but to stay for the day, or better still for the weekend. The increase in visitors has been incredible over the last few months so let's see if we can keep the momentum going.