

# Great Lakes BUSINESS

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## February 2009

**When you own your own business you only have to work half a day - you can do whatever you want with the other 12 hours.** **Anonymous**

### Women In Business Workshops

**Do you own / operate a small business in the Great Lakes area and do you want to take full advantage of its potential?**

If the answer is "yes", then this is your chance to be part of an exciting program for women business operators.

Join a group of businesswomen in the Great Lakes area and learn practical business strategies, network and improve your business success.

Participation in the Women in Business Regional Program offers many benefits, including:

- opportunities to develop business skills;
- tips and advice from experienced business people on how to manage and grow a business;
- the chance to explore options to reduce costs and attract new business;
- an understanding of business assistance and support available locally;
- the development of local business networks.

The Program runs over three months and requires a maximum of 35 hours of time.

The Program involves three full-day or six half-day business skills workshops, two networking events and a minimum of three small group mentoring sessions. The cost of the Program is \$165 (including GST).

The Program benefits businesswomen who:

- own/ operate a small business in one of the nominated regions;
- draw at least 50 per cent of their income from the business;
- have been in business between one and five years;
- are serious about achieving commercial success.

Interest so far has been excellent from women business owners / operators in the area - if you have yet to confirm your interest or if you know of someone who may benefit, please contact Deb Tuckerman on 02 6591 7390 or email [deb.tuckerman@greatlakes.nsw.gov.au](mailto:deb.tuckerman@greatlakes.nsw.gov.au) as soon as possible.

[For further information](#)

## Great Lakes Economic Development Advisory Committee Call for nominations

Nominations from the community are now invited to fill 3 positions on the Great Lakes Economic Development Advisory Committee - a committee established to provide strategic direction to Council on its role in facilitating the economic growth of the area.

Membership is for 3 years. The Committee comprises 6 community representatives, the Mayor, 2 other councillors, General Manager and Manager of Economic Development. The Committee meets every 2-3 months.

A background in business development within the area would be an advantage but is not essential.

For a nomination form and further information, contact Council's Manager of Economic Development, Deb Tuckerman on 6591 7390.

Nomination forms must be completed and returned by close of business - Wednesday 11th February 2009.

## Chamber AGM

Forster Tuncurry Chamber of Commerce is planning its Annual General Meeting for the 3rd of March 2009. Keep an eye on the local press for further details of time and place or email the President, Joanne Jay [joannecjay@hotmail.com](mailto:joannecjay@hotmail.com).

## Funding announced for small chambers of commerce

In November 2008 a Small Chambers of Commerce Fund was set up to assist established Chambers of Commerce in communities of less than 5,000 across New South Wales. It is to provide \$450,000 to small towns over the next five years and grants between \$2,000 and \$5,000 are available to aid promotional activities such as web sites, signage for town entrances and business development seminars. The Fund is managed by the NSW Department of State & Regional Development.

If local groups would like more information or would like to discuss applications they can contact Susan Rowe of DSRD (02 4908 7341) or Deb Tuckerman of Great Lakes Council (02 6591 7390). If your application is specifically for marketing or promotional activities to attract visitors to your town contact Richard Old (02 6554 8799) of Great Lakes Tourism to discuss your project ideas.

[For further information](#)

## Labour force innovations in the aged care industry

Operators of local residential aged care and home care services have been working with Great Lakes Council and other relevant organisations to develop another innovative strategy designed to help meet the demand for skilled care workers.

A meeting of interested operators will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to consider a number of options to operate a 'shared casual labour pool'. The initiative will then be trialled across the Great Lakes, Manning Valley and Gloucester between April and July

and if successful, could have broad application to other regions and other industries. For further information, contact Deb Tuckerman at Great Lakes Council on 6591 7390 or John Quinn at GLAICA House, Tuncurry on 6554 5521.

### Forster Tuncurry Employment Land Strategy

HAVE YOUR SAY NOW up to the 13th of March - Residents, property owners and business operators in the Forster Tuncurry area are encouraged to have input into a new draft strategy which forecasts the growth of retail, commercial and industrial activities over the next 25 years and the corresponding need for land in the local area.

Copies of the strategy can be viewed or purchased from Council's Breese Pde office and can also be accessed from Council's website [www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au).

Stakeholders and interested members of the public are also invited to attend an information session on February 25th, 2009 for an overview of the Draft Strategy and to have questions answered. Light refreshments will be served. Please contact Deb Tuckerman on 6591 7390 if you wish to attend so catering can be arranged.

Submissions are also invited in writing, to be signed and dated and sent to the General Manager, Great Lakes Council, PO BOX 450, Forster, 2428 by Friday 13th of March 2009.

### Industrial Relations & Human Resources - FREE workshops

The Office of Industrial Relations is offering a series of workshops across the region during the first half of 2009. They will include free sessions on Employment Law, Workplace Arrangements and Employing Staff and there will also be the opportunity to organise groups for the reasonably priced sessions on Recruitment and Retention, Workplace Policies and Managing Employees. For further information and to download a registration form click on the link below.

[For further information](#)

### Export Seminar Event - the Credit Crunch & Strategies to Safeguard your Business

The [Hunter Export Centre](#) together with [Austrade Newcastle](#) would like to invite you to a Export Seminar event **"The Credit Crunch and strategies to safeguard your business"**

The event will be held on Tuesday the 17th of February from 5.30pm - 7.30pm at the Hunter Trade and Investment Centre in Newcastle.

[For further information](#)

### Small Business & General Tax Break

What is it?

A proposed 30% temporary investment allowance for businesses on eligible new tangible depreciating assets used in carrying out a business. This supersedes the previously announced 10% Government Investment Allowance. The allowance will take the form of a tax deduction on top of the usual capital allowance deduction for eligible assets.

Those assets eligible for the allowance are new tangible depreciating assets and new

expenditure on existing assets used in Australia to carry on a business for which a deduction is available under the core provisions of Division 40 (Capital Allowances) in the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (ITAA97).

#### Timing of allowance

The allowance will be applicable to assets, including most items of plant and equipment but excluding land and trading stock and will provide:

1. A 30% tax deduction on eligible assets which are acquired between 13 December 2008 and 30 June 2009 and installed ready for use by 30 June 2010.
2. A 10% tax deduction on eligible assets which are acquired between 1 July 2009 and 31 December 2009 and installed ready for use by 31 December 2010.

#### Expenditure Threshold

For small business (turnover of \$2 million per annum or less) a minimum expenditure of \$1,000 will apply. For all other businesses a minimum expenditure of \$10,000 will apply.

Example: If an eligible asset costs \$50,000, the entitlement would be \$65,000 worth of deductions - \$50,000 over the life of the asset and a \$15,000 outright deduction (i.e. the 30% temporary investment allowance) at the time the asset is installed ready for use.

Status - This is a proposed allowance – yet to be passed into legislation. Draft legislation to implement the investment allowance will be released for public consultation later in February 2009.

Disclaimer - These details are provided by the NSW Dept. of State and Regional Development for information purposes only. No warranties or guarantees are implied. For precise requirements please see the Commonwealth Government announcements.

[For further information](#)

## Earth Hour - 28th March - 8.30pm

Earth Hour 2009 is set to switch off the globe. Already 377 cities, and double the number of countries that participated in 2008, are committed. With hundreds more cities expected to sign up to switch off in the coming months, Earth Hour 2009 is setting the platform for an unprecedented global mandate for action on climate change. Join Great Lakes Council in participating as a supporter of Earth Hour on Saturday 28th of March at 8.30pm. For more information contact Naomi Soustal on 6591 7222 or click on the link below.

[For further information](#)

## Grow Your Business

So business is good, you have a steady flow of new and regular customers, great staff working for you and your business name is getting out there. Now what? business.gov.au's *Growing your business checklist* can show you what you can do to grow or improve your business.

Whether you are seeking larger premises for your business, want to branch out into a franchise, or are simply looking to take on new staff, you will need to manage these changes successfully.

The checklist covers the fundamental issues you may need to consider when you grow and improve your business. It contains compliance and regulatory issues, ideas for new business opportunities, and contact details for agencies that can give you advice along the

way.

Not sure where to start? The checklist provides a list of government services available to help you grow or improve your business. These services can provide general advice, workshops, seminars and networking events, and can even match you with a mentor or business coach.

The *Growing your business checklist* brings together a range of information from all levels of government in Australia to help you grow or improve your businesses.

[For further information](#)

## Useful contacts

Comments and feedback on the Newsletter's content is always appreciated. You might also like to suggest a topic or share some ideas or tips for future editions - good news stories are also welcome - email Sue Druce of the Hunter Business Advisory Service to do so. For past editions of the newsletter please visit

[www.greatlakesbusiness.com.au](http://www.greatlakesbusiness.com.au)

Sue Druce - Business Facilitator - Hunter Business Centre (Great Lakes & Gloucester Areas)

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Suzette Gaff - Business Development Manager, Hunter (NSW Dept. State & Regional Development)

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