

Great Lakes BUSINESS

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June/July 2007 Edition

Welcome to the winter issue of the Great Lakes Business Newsletter! This edition includes news from the past couple of months and informs of events coming to the Great Lakes area to assist you with running your business such as a special offer to attend a FREE Coaching Cafe & Business-2-Business Expo at Tea Gardens in July.

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 email Sue Druce of the Hunter Business Advisory Service bas@coastallink.com.au to do so.

For past editions of the newsletter visit
www.greatlakesbusiness.com.au

Upcoming Great Lakes Events

[FREE Coaching Café in Tea Gardens & Business-2-Business Expo](#)

Myall Waterways Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Inc. invites all business and intending business people to the Tea Gardens **Coaching Café** for two interactive business coaching sessions. The sessions will help clarify what is important for you and your business and to also define the steps for you to take your business to the next level. The two half day sessions will be facilitated by three experienced & qualified business coaches & are FREE to attend. Places are strictly limited and bookings are essential to attend.

Session One – Monday 16th July – 1.30 to 5pm
Session Two – Tuesday 17th July – 8.30 to 11.30am

Blue Dolphin Room - Tea Gardens Hotel Motel

Monday 16th July, from 5.30 pm to 7.30pm, also gives all businesses the chance to meet representatives of business support and service providers including - Government, training,

employment, legal, accounting and financial, communications and consulting at the **Business-2-Business Expo**. Network with your local business colleagues over a complimentary nibble. Everyone is welcome to attend - whether you are participating in the Coaching Café or not.

For more information about the Coaching Café and/or The Business-2-Business Expo contact Tea Gardens Community Technology Centre Phone - 02 4997 0749 or email teagardensctc@aanet.com.au

Businesses or organisations who provide services to businesses in the Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest or surrounding area - such as solicitors, accountants, training providers, IT, marketing, communications providers are welcome to have a presence at the 'Business-2-Business' Expo taking place on the Monday evening. To express your interest contact Trevor Cook as soon as possible t.cook@optusnet.com.au

[Anaconda Adventure Race for Forster this September](#)

Following in its fine tradition of hosting major sporting endurance events the Great Lakes is now the official home of the NSW leg of the Anaconda Adventure Race series. Adventure Racing can be described as the "Action Man version of Triathlon" and can include a variety of off-road disciplines including ocean swimming, mountain biking, and ocean kayaking and running.

The Anaconda Adventure Race format is part of a National Series with other events being held in Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and now in Forster, New South Wales. Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September 2007 will see the inaugural Anaconda Adventure Race held in Forster. The event promises to be spectacular and exciting for the entire community.

A **public meeting** about the event will be held next **Thursday 28 June at Club Forster, Strand Street, Forster from 6.30pm to 7.30pm**. All interested businesses and individuals are invited to attend.

For more information contact Richard Old on 02 6555 6940.

[Business Networking Opportunity](#)

- 6PM 3rd July - Tuesday (always 1st Tuesday in the month)
- Garden Terrace Restaurant, Club Forster, Strand St Forster
- Drinks and Hot Nibbles provided
- Sponsored by the Forster Tuncurry Chamber of Commerce

Recent Events

'Pricing for Profit'

Home based businesses in the Great Lakes and surrounding areas were treated, on May 9, to a free workshop on 'Pricing for Profit'. Over 40 businesses attended the workshop presented by Tracey Collins of Project National.

Tracey shared her experiences as an accountant and home based business person to focus on calculating break even point, developing pricing and credit management strategies and looking at ways to value add rather than discounting.

The majority of participants indicated that they would apply what they had learnt to their businesses which should help to improve business success. The workshop was sponsored by NSW Department of State & Regional Development.

In light of the success of the workshop, it would be good if businesses could consider what other aspects of running a business they would like to know more about. Contact Sue Druce of the Business Advisory Service bas@coastallink.com with suggestions. If numbers are sufficient, workshops for particular topics can be organised to suit.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Presented By	Details	Contact
Thursday 28 June 6.30 to 7.30pm	Forster Anaconda Project Team	Public Meeting Anaconda Adventure Race Club Forster	Richard Old 02 6555 6940
Tuesday 3 July - 6pm	Forster Tuncurry Chamber of Commerce	Great Lakes Business Network Meeting Club Forster	Sandie Dickson sandie.dickson@mortgagechoice.com.au
Monday/Tuesday 16 & 17 July	Myall Waterways	Coaching Cafe & Business-	Tea Gardens CTC 02 4997 0749

	Chamber of Commerc e	2- Business Expo	
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Business Information

[GreenPower Competition](#)

GreenPower is government certified renewable energy that can be purchased through any electricity provider. It is one way that business can reduce their carbon emissions and impact on climate change. By switching to GreenPower, Great Lakes Businesses have the opportunity to WIN a professional commercial energy audit which could save you \$\$\$\$.

To find out how, contact Great Lakes Council's Environmental Officer, Kate Adkins on (02) 6591 7306 or visit Council's website www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au Competition closes 11am 28

[Storm Damage Relief](#)

Any businesses in the Hunter area who suffered damage or loss following the storms of the recent June long weekend may wish to contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority to check if they qualify for Natural Disaster Relief Assistance.

Log on to <http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/reader/disaster> for more information.

[Australian Tourism Development Program \(ATDP\)](#)

The ATDP is a highly competitive merit-based grants program that aims to assist in the development of a continuous tourism experience across Australia. Applications are now being called for Round 5, which closes at 5pm (local time) on Friday July 13 2007. To date, almost \$22 million has been allocated to 129 projects across Australia.

The documentation for Round 5 is available from the Ausindustry website www.ausindustry.gov.au or discuss your application with Richard Old at Great Lakes Tourism on 02 6555 6940.

[2007 Mid North Coast Tourism Awards now open](#)

The Awards cover the eight coastal council areas from Port Stephens to Coffs Harbour and are the highest level of recognition for tourism related businesses. The event acknowledges tourism businesses that have demonstrated outstanding achievement and success during 06/07, awarding the best tourism products and services of the region. Entering the Awards also provides businesses with the opportunity to review

their business' planning and development strategies.

The 07 Awards ceremony will be hosted by Great Lakes. For full details about Awards eligibility and entry forms go to www.greatlakes.org.au or contact Mid North Coast Regional Tourism on 02 6584 0566 or email northcoasttourism@bigpond.com. Entries close at 5pm on Friday 21st July.

Other Events

2007 Premier's NSW Export Awards Launch - Taree

You are invited to attend the launch of the 2007 Premier's NSW Export Awards from 3.30 to 5.15pm on 28 July or why not come early and attend a FREE workshop, 'Developing your Export Plan', commencing at 2pm at Greater Taree City Council.

For further information contact Chris Ryan on 02 6592 5346 or to register for the workshop or launch contact Lisa McAuley before COB June 25 lisamcauley@aiex.com.au

Business Updates

Tax Changes from July

New information provided by the Australian Taxation Office indicates that businesses with a turnover below \$75000 need not register for the GST. And those that voluntarily register will have the option of reporting and paying annually. Also, you will not need a tax invoice to claim gst credits for purchases of \$75 or less.

The 30 % tax break will increase from \$25,000 to \$30,000, and the 40% threshold will increase to \$80,000. So for some sole traders and those in partnership, their tax will reduce over this time.

Simplified Accounting method has been extended to include businesses with a turnover of under 2,000,000.

Changes to Superannuation means that self employed people will be able claim a full deduction for contributions from 1st July.

The Tax Office has also made a number of changes to Capital Gains Tax concessions for small businesses. You can now download a fact sheet to help you understand how these changes affect your business.

For further information talk with your accountant or visit the Tax

Office website www.ato.gov.au

Free kit for employers

A new, free resource for employers—‘**Need staff? Promoting the employment of people with disability**’ kit is now available.

The kit has been developed as part of the Australian Government’s Employer Demand and Workplace Flexibility strategy and will promote the business benefits of employing people with disability.

The kit contains:

- o a DVD providing real-life success stories and experiences from employers who already benefit from the employment of people with disability
- o a series of fact sheets for employers on attracting and retaining staff
- o a Mental Health First Aid in the Workplace e-learning course—a valuable training tool for all employees
- o postcards outlining financial assistance in the workplace for employers
- o executive bookmark and business card holder for the employer

You can get your free information kits directly by calling JobAccess on 1800 464 800. JobAccess is a service that provides free help and expert advice on the employment of people with disability. For more information visit jobaccess.gov.au

Business Advisory Service

Whether you’re a new or established business in the Great Lakes Area, the Hunter Business Advisory Service will provide you with ongoing information, business guidance and training.

If you would like to make an appointment to talk with Sue Druce at either Taree, our office in Forster or at your business premises, please phone 02 6539 3966 or email bas@coastallink.com.au. Further information can be accessed by visiting <http://www.businesscentre.com.au> or by phoning 1300 650 058.

Useful Contacts

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