

Great Lakes BUSINESS

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May 2009

This newsletter is a joint initiative of Great Lakes Council and Hunter Business Centre.

A market is never saturated with a good product,
but it is very quickly saturated with a bad one.

Henry Ford

Great Lakes Small Business Diagnostic Program

Small Businesses in Forster and Tuncurry and throughout the Great Lakes LGA have a great opportunity to access, free of charge, a confidential and independent assessment of how their business is operating. The Health Check analyses of a number of different facets of the operating dynamics of the business.

The analysis will then allow the business owners to clearly assess how they are doing and to look at potential opportunities to strengthen their business structure and/or systems. As part of the program, workshops and business development programs will also be conducted that allow participating businesses to look at different strategies and review how other businesses operate.

The project is being delivered by the Hunter Business Centre (HBC) through funding provided by the Australian Government and supports the Business Advisory Service work already undertaken by the HBC in the Great Lakes. So think about the following:

- Do you have issues with your Cash flow at times?
- How do your customers perceive your business?
- Do you have a strong local business base or do you rely mainly of tourism dollars?
- Is your current business growth meeting your expectations?
- Are you concerned about the impacts of the current uncertain economic times on your business?
- Are you planning to expand in the near future?
- Finding it hard to retain good employees?
- Am I outperforming my competitors?

Enquire about a free interview and Health Check

To make an appointment Ph: 02 6539 3966

Or Email: geoff@businesscentre.com.au

Getting your business in order - Home-based Business Workshop

The Great Lakes is again celebrating NSW Home-based Business Week by hosting a special event featuring Newcastle based Shirley Dalton of Dalton Business Systems who will provide practical tips based on proven systems to get you and your staff organised and put you back in control of your business.

Mark Wednesday 27th May (5:30-7:30pm) in your diary. Further details will be distributed shortly.

Enquiries: Deb Tuckerman deb.tuckerman@greatlakes.nsw.gov.au or Sue Druce sue@businesscentre.com.au

Record Keeping Workshop

Thursday 28 May 2009- Club Forster - Strand Street - 1pm to 4pm

Please note that bookings for this session are essential as places are limited to just 25 people.

This FREE workshop for small business operators will provide you with a better understanding of the basic concepts of record keeping for businesses, including taxation issues and provide you with advice and tips on how to improve the way your business records are managed.

At the session you will be taken through cash receipt and cash payment record keeping and complete a Business activity statement (BAS).

Session topics include:

- Cash receipts book
- Typical business transactions
- Records checklist
- Separating your receipts and payments
- Why keep good records?
- Bank statements
- Wages book
- Activity statement
- Cash payments book
- How money flows through a business.

Bookings are essential - to register
Go to www.ato.gov.au/busreg and select NSW OR phone 1300 661 104

Chamber Business Breakfast

Forster Tuncurry Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast

Tuesday 5th May 2009 - 7am – 8:30 am

Venue: BoxFish Restaurant. Memorial Drive, Forster

Special Guest Speaker: NSW Police Superintendent - Peter Thurtell.

Superintendent Thurtell is the Police Commander for the Great Lakes Area and is also a member of the Australian Shooting Team. Peter will be discussing Policing issues in the Forster Tuncurry area and would be pleased to respond to questions in relation to crime and Policing.

Cost for full breakfast - Members \$15.00 - Non Members \$20.00 - Business Card prize draw.

Bookings Essential - Contact Bob 0412 508235

Additional support for new businesses Great Lakes & Manning areas

New Enterprise Incentive Scheme - NEIS is a Federal Government initiative, which provides a comprehensive package of assistance to eligible Centrelink assisted clients to help them start their own business. Assistance includes small business management training and business plan development, NEIS allowance for up to 52 weeks, business mentoring and ongoing support during the first year of business operation.

Potential NEIS participants from the Great Lakes and Manning areas will be able to, from July 1st, have their business idea assessed, attend training and receive ongoing mentoring without having to travel outside the local area.

For further information you can make an appointment to see Great Lakes Business Facilitator, Sue Druce by phoning 6539 3966 or email sue@businesscentre **OR** contact

New Hunter Business (NHB) Phone: 4925 7704 - Email: neis@businesscentre.com.au - or go to <http://www.newhunterbusiness.org> - TOLL FREE 1800 815 705

New Advisory Committee members

Great Lakes Council has announced the latest community appointments to its Economic Development Advisory Committee. Local business representatives Amita Krautloher and Daniel Romer are new faces on the Committee, while Steve Wines and Georg Fiebig have been reappointed for a 3 year term.

The Committee met on Wednesday 29th April and discussed a range of issues. Wesley Uniting Employment attended the meeting to discuss the recent changes to the provision of local job services and trends in the local job market.

The Advisory Committee meets every two months to provide Council with strategic advice on its role in supporting economic and employment growth in the area.

Enquiries to Deb Tuckerman, Council's Economic Development Manager, 6591 7390 or deb.tuckerman@greatlakes.nsw.gov.au.

Nabiac plans for its Social and Economic future

On 1st April, Nabiac residents, businesses and community groups met to revise its community strategic plan. Amongst a range of projects, priorities included provision of residential aged care, improving highway signage, building a multipurpose commercial

centre and completing the swimming pool. The revised community plan is currently being finalised by Nabitac Village Futures Group (NVFG).

Enquiries to NVFG President Kit Carson on 6554 1409.

Exporting Australian Services Workshop

In the current economic slowdown exporting is one area where businesses can supplement a downturn in domestic markets as well as develop a new area to grow their business. The Hunter Export Centre is running an Export Services Workshop on Tuesday 5 May at the Hunter Trade and Investment Centre.

[For further information](#)

Family Business Seminar

Family Business Australia, a not for profit group assisting family business, has a special event in the Hunter on 7 May with guest speaker Richard Owens, a prominent Hunter businessman.

Richard Owens presented at the NSW Family Business Australia conference, and delivers a truly remarkable and realistic account of the challenges of working in a family business. www.fambiz.com.au.

[For further information](#)

Envirohunter 09

A two day exhibition and conference program covering environmental issues and solutions for business.

Newcastle Jockey Club - 20 to 21 May - 9am to 5pm

YOU CAN PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND THIS MAJOR EVENT

by visiting www.envirohunter.com.au

The website also provides additional information on the event, including conference sessions, exhibitors and much more.

Government Funding

There are a number of programs with funding that you can bid for to assist in these tougher economic times. Some have been introduced by Government to specifically assist your business sector. The linked document lists some of the programs.

[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

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Geoff Marshall - Business Facilitator & Great Lakes Small Business Diagnostic Program - Hunter Business Centre (Great Lakes & Gloucester areas) - geoff@businesscentre.com.au - Ph (02) 6539 39 66

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