

Great Lakes BUSINESS

September Edition

Welcome to the September edition of the Great Lakes Business Newsletter! An initiative of Great Lakes Council & the Hunter Business Advisory Service. The Newsletter aims to provide Great Lakes businesses (including home based operators) with great tips, new ideas and details for upcoming events. The newsletter also advises on changes to legislation & trends.

This month is 'Small Business September' in NSW and there is plenty to celebrate in the Great Lakes including; the recent September Business Breakfast, a new appointment to the Bulahdelah Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and a business forum to be held on the 27th of September aimed at providing fresh ideas and support to small businesses in the Great Lakes area.

This month's newsletter also contains some really useful information on the importance of succession planning and an article outlining why some small businesses might fail in their first few years.

There is also a special opportunity for established local business owners to support the region through the 'Stepping Up' program as mentors, see below for more details about how you can support other business owners in the area.

As always, we would appreciate any feedback from you regarding the Newsletter content & any topics or issues you feel may be relevant for future inclusion. Contact Sue Druce of the Hunter Business Advisory Service bas@coastallink.com.au to do so.

Recent Great Lakes Events

Small Business September commences in the Great Lakes

The Forster Tuncurry Chamber of Commerce coordinated a successful event to start the 2006 'Small Business September' celebrations in the Great Lakes. Held at the Forster Tuncurry Memorial Services Club, the event commenced with a Business Breakfast.

Australian Business Limited's Ashley McKertich spoke about the very important but often forgotten requirement for businesses to prepare a succession plan, commenting that approximately 25,000 small to medium sized businesses in NSW face the imminent exit of their owners and have no successor in place to secure their future. Phil Evans from 'People Stuff' spoke about the effect that attitude and your sense of purpose has on businesses. He emphasised the need for business owners to look after their life outside of work.

The business breakfast was followed by a mini-small business expo which provided local businesses with an opportunity to access a wide range of information to assist their performance and promotion. Exhibitors included local, state and Federal government representatives as well as a range of community and private providers offering assistance with business finance, training and other business services.

For further information on the event:
Forster Tuncurry Chamber of Commerce: ftchamber@pnc.com.au.
Australian Business Limited: <http://www.australianbusiness.com.au/>
Phil Evans: <http://www.peoplestuff.com.au/>

The Doctor provides a 'tonic' for local businesses....

It was a pleasure to invite Dr Kim Houghton back to the Great Lakes in August. Dr Houghton of Canberra-based Economic Solutions shared his tips on small business success, and techniques for conducting market research with over 20 businesses at an event organised by Great Lakes Council. Dr Houghton's visit was sponsored by the Mid North Coast Area Consultative Committee. For further information

NEWS UPDATE

Bulahdelah Chamber appoints new project coordinator...

Bulahdelah Chamber of Commerce and Tourism has been successful in applying for funding assistance through the Department of State and Regional Development to employ a part time coordinator to work on a range of key projects over the next twelve months focusing on preparing the town for the future Pacific Highway By-pass. Projects being developed include; some streetscape enhancements to the town, town marketing and improving the services through the Rural Transaction Centre located on Stroud Street.

Inquiries can be made to Nita Eadie, Project Coordinator, Bulahdelah Chamber of Commerce and Tourism at exel@bigpond.com.

New brochure

The latest project to be completed by the Chamber was the development of a new Bulahdelah brochure. The brochure was launched on the 15th August at the Bulahdelah Bowling Club.

What's on: Upcoming events for September and October

Information and networking evening - 27th September

This will be a fantastic opportunity for Great Lakes businesses to meet with local Council representatives to find out what is planned in the area regarding Economic Development and to network with other businesses.

The evening will feature the launch of a new resource developed by council to assist new and existing businesses, and a presentation on the growth of the Great Lakes by Mr Glenn Handford - Director Planning and Environmental Services. The Forum is part of 'Small Business September', for further information or to RSVP, please contact Deb Tuckerman, Great Lakes Council by phoning **6591 7390**.

Dates For Your Diary

Date	Presented by	Details	Venue
Wed. 27/09/06 5-7pm	Great Lakes Council	<p>'Small Business September' Business information and networking evening.</p> <p>Light refreshments to be served</p> <p>Cost: FREE</p> <p>For further inquiries please contact Deb Tuckerman on 65 917 390</p>	Great Lakes Council Breese Parade.
Friday 30/09/06	F/T Chamber Of Commerce	Customer Service Award nominations close	
Thursday 14/09/06	Hunter Business Centre	'Stepping Up' program commences.	
Thursday 26/10/06	Forster Tuncurry Chamber	<p>Great Lakes Business Awards Celebration Dinner</p> <p>Cost: \$450 for table of 10 or \$50pp</p> <p>Inquiries – Forster Tuncurry Chamber on 6557 6644</p>	Tuncurry Bowling Club

Stepping Up

Business Mentors Wanted...

The Hunter Business Centre will commence the Stepping Up Program in Forster on 14/9/06. This is the first time that the program has been offered outside metropolitan areas. For the businesses involved, Stepping Up represents an exciting opportunity to develop new business planning skills to take their business to the next level. The program consists of workshop and mentoring components.

The Centre is looking for volunteer mentors to provide support to the businesses involved. To qualify as a mentor you need five years experience as the owner/operator of a business or appropriate skills relevant to business owners. Mentors commit to ten hours of mentoring.

If you are interested in putting something back into the business community as a mentor please contact Hunter Business Centre by email -

reception@businesscentre.com.au.

Further information is available on the website:

<http://www.businesscentre.com.au/>.

Stepping Up is funded by the Department of State and Regional Development.

What's New

Addressing staff shortages to support growth of local industry:

An exciting new HSC program has been developed to address the predicted shortage of community services staff (especially aged care nurses) in the Great Lakes and Manning areas over the coming years. The new program known as Career Link - Community Services - is a unique HSC pathway that will allow participants to not only gain a higher school certificate but also a nationally recognised qualification and two years on the job work experience. The program is a direct result of local schools, TAFE and industry working together.

Enrolments for the course (which will commence in 2007) are open now. Enquiries to Sue Wines on **(02) 6591 7623**

Support for Home-based Businesses

Another source of support for people who wish to derive income from home is available in the Great Lakes.

The Samaritans Foundation which locally operates a wide range of services has launched a fantastic new pilot project aimed at addressing the Social Impacts of Unemployment in the Great Lakes Region. The newest element of the project is the Home Based Business programme which is open to anyone, all ages, who has a home based business idea. The programme will aim to encourage those with new home based business ideas or already established businesses which may require some further assistance, by providing information, advice, peer support, mentoring and financial assistance.

The project will compliment the work that has already been done to support home-based businesses in the area through the Manning/Great Lakes Home-based Business Network coordinated by Great Lakes Council.

For further information about the project, contact Nathan from the Samaritans on **(02) 6557 6977** or **0427 455 422**.

Advise and assistance for small and medium businesses

A dedicated Business Assistance Unit has been established within WorkCover NSW specifically to provide small and medium sized business with free, accurate and practical advice and assistance with workers compensation, return to work strategies for injured workers, and workplace health and safety.

Business Advisory Officers are located throughout regional NSW to provide an educational approach to show small and medium business owners how good workplace safety systems can be implemented using simple and effective tools, and that safe business is good business.

Your local Business Advisory Officer can provide a range of free services to small and medium business including:

- After hours workshops and seminars on occupational health and safety, workers compensation and return to work strategies for injured workers.
- One-on-one workplace advisory visits (on-site or off-site) to communicate practical information and assistance.
- Workshops tailored to business or industry requests.
- Safe Business Advisory Days, produced in partnership with local business associations. These advisory days also include workshops and one-on-one advisory sessions.

Please feel free to contact your local Business Advisory Officer to discuss any WorkCover NSW products and services and they will be happy to assist you.

Coffs Harbour
Maitland

Marie Tuahine
Creagh Moore

6659 1706
4931 6811

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 new 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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Deb Tuckerman—Economic Development Manager (Great Lakes Council)
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