

Member Update

Spring 2017



This newsletter is distributed to Members of the Central Coast Plateau Chamber of Commerce and to Members of the Central Coast Plateau Harvest Trail Group.

President
Lorraine Wilson

Secretary
Sharon Peruch

Treasurer
Rodger Wilson

Executive Members

Sam Dominello (VP)
Bev Ferrier
Peter Denton
Rod Wall
Margaret Vallance

Serving business in ...

Bucketty
Calga
Central Mangrove
Kariong
Kulnura
Lower Mangrove
Mangrove Mountain
Mt White
Peats Ridge
Somersby
Spencer

From the President

Central Coast Council – Monthly meetings with CCC appear to be allowed to continue despite the former administration flagging an end to communication between staff, even on the management level, and the community. Changes were instigated by the previous administration which may change as our elected Councillors work through the new amalgamated Central Coast Council. Speaking with the representatives for Gosford West and Wyong Wards which affect the very large council area west of the M1, it is evident that agricultural production is of great importance to them. It is also evident, however, that even with that goodwill we remain at a disadvantage in terms of population numbers. There is enormous potential for local sales for local produce, however the logistics continue to be challenging. The appetite is there, we just have to find a broad based solution.

Central Coast Food Collective – in September the CC Food Collective partnered with TAFE Hospitality School at Ourimbah TAFE to build two dinner nights for industry personnel around local produce. Unfortunately, not even the farmers who supplied their produce were able to attend what were reported to be excellent dinners based on local produce. Perhaps next time?

CC Plateau Harvest Trail (CCPHT) - 6 farms on the HHI/CCPHT page and responses are encouraging. A greater variety of participation would be even better, however that will happen in good time. Community grant funding was suggested by the CCC to finally give impetus to the CCPHT. Whether successful, or not, will be known in November.

CCPCC Website & Face book – Margaret Vallance has redesigning the site and would welcome more input from Members. The Central Coast Plateau has many facets and the website should reflect our diversity and productive value. For instance, who knew pecans were grown at Somersby....for many years?

ATO Scam: Be aware that phone calls have been made purportedly from the AFP relating to ATO charges of tax avoidance. This is a scam and the ATO has a dedicated call number.

CENTRAL COAST PLATEAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club

Tuesday, November 7 at 7.00PM

Your RSVP would be appreciated but not essential.

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IDEAS ROUNDTABLE ON VALUE ADDING FOR HAWKESBURY GROWERS

Local growers in the Hawkesbury and adjacent areas are invited to a roundtable discussion to take place on:

23rd November from 6 PM to 8 PM

At the Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury Campus,
Londonderry Rd Richmond

M10 building, (access from the Eastern side of the Building).

The purpose of the meeting is to consult with local growers about appropriate capacity building courses and funding programs to add value to existing agricultural products and businesses. Suitable approaches can be co-funded by Food Innovation Australia Ltd (FIAL) with access to the Western Sydney University food technology laboratories located on the Hawkesbury campus.

Growers thinking of diversifying, value adding or growing their businesses are most welcome to attend.

Please contact Ian Knowd on 0420 968 867 or Olga Yoldi on 0411 604 270
Olga.Yoldi@rdasydney.org.au

General News

Within the political melting pot the CCPCC has represented Members at –

- ✓ Boosting Regional NSW information session Terrigal Breakers Country Club
- ✓ Destination NSW Stakeholder Cocktail Function, Crowne Plaza Terrigal (Both the above were marginally informative however of networking value which Tassin from the Aust. Walkabout Wildlife Park can attest to – the baby wombat on too tight a feeding schedule to leave at home was definitely a draw card for a very select few!)
- ✓ Hawkesbury Harvest Inc AGM with HVC GM Peter Conroy. A copy of the report will be attached with this newsletter for an interesting read

Casual Employment Issue: We are working on the postcode impact on backpacker employment. This does not mean the CCPCC is advocating a postcode change, rather a visa policy change. Federal Member, Lucy Wicks, is keen to discuss.

Land Use Policy: A careful watch on the development of a NSW Draft Primary Production and Rural Development SEPP. Also the LEP changes by CCC which was put on hold until the amalgamation election was finalised.

REMEMBER: Members are always welcome at the monthly CCPCC Executive meetings held at the Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club on the first Tuesday of each month, Usually commencing at 7.00PM.

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