



## WOOLLOONGABBA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

### 2016 -2017 President's Report

**Presented:** Annual General Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

Welcome all to our AGM.

Firstly, I want to thank the dedicated members that have assisted with executive roles over the last twelve months, and in particular our treasurer, Glenn Maymann for his consistent dedication and devotion to the association.

Thankyou also to all our enduring members for your continued support of the Association and its endeavours.

Welcome to all our enthusiastic new members. The association is a reflection of its members so I am looking forward to your contribution in growing and defining its future.

I also wish to acknowledge our government elected representative:

Councillor Jonna Sri, The Honourable Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and Terri Butler MP.

Thank you to Wilson Accountants for preparing and lodging our financials again in gratis.

Where to begin - what an amazing twelve months it has been.

The year in reflection has been filled with many achievements for the Business Association and I am very proud of what has been accomplished and what we as an association can achieve in the future.

In 2016 our leadership in community capacity building was recognised with two nominations.

Firstly, a nomination by Honourable Deputy Premier and Member for South Brisbane Jackie Trad for Telstra Business Woman of the Year and secondly, the receipt of a discretionary Australian Government Community Business Partnership Award by our federal member, Terri Butler MP.

This award notably recognised the work of spearheading an Australian first business model of partnering community and local businesses, brokering a partnership between a local hotel owner with South Brisbane's Micah Projects, a community service provider and the community to deliver a supportive accommodation model to alleviate homelessness caused by domestic violence. This initiative was to provide over 24,000 night bed per year to women and children made homeless due to domestic violence. This project unified the community under a common goal and was tabled with the Department of Communities and submitted to the State's Treasury Department.

The project failed in the trial period in January 2017 with the State Government dropping the initiative from the draft budget period without further discussion, consideration or communication.

Not all was lost, as this initiative created a precedent that was embraced by a conglomerate in Sydney who did deliver a similar model in March this year. The relationships and lessons gained from this endeavour have facilitated further initiatives that are slowly evolving into tangible outcomes. We have recently partnered Community with an accommodation provider in West End to provide 8 rooms, effectively alleviating some homelessness by providing accommodation to elderly women who have suffered adverse financial hardship. We



are continuing this initiative, in partnership with Community by looking for other land/ building owners who may be interested in the philanthropic tax advantages as a socially responsible alternative to negative gearing.

We remain affiliated with service providers namely, Micah Projects and Community with the goal of unifying business with socially responsible initiatives, delivering outcomes and hence allowing small businesses to be part of change and making a difference to society.

The focus of 2016/17 was community capacity building and social responsibility, and another great achievement was the Evening with the Stars in June as it achieved a different depth of engagement.

Australian Actor, Michael Caton, famous for his iconic character in Australian cult movie "The Castle" was flown in from Sydney to have a conversation with Deputy Premier Jackie Trad regarding their experiences of growing up in the Gabba. With this commonality, the conversation transported the audience to a Woolloongabba of not too recent past. A past filled with diversity, a suburb that consisted mainly of migrants, bustling commerce, trains, trams and cricket. Both had attended St Joseph's convent at Kangaroo Point. Caton lived at 22 Logan Road as a child and Jackie grew up and learnt English in her family's grocer store located on Stanley Street, in the building that Yellow Jersey now operate a business from. This conversation was gifted to the State Library Archives as oral history with plans to collect more oral history from living local legends. The evening also generated generous donations from both the Association and Jackie Trad to Childhood Cancer Support.

The evening gathered a record crowd for networking event with just under 100 people in attendance. Thanks again have to go to our members and their businesses that supported and sponsored this evening. Without them, the evening would not have been possible.

Big thank you to the following: Mayoora Thakeria of The Sebel South Brisbane, Andrew from Yellow Cabs, Henri Van Roden of All Bathroom Gear, Julie Sultmann of Madison Reid Accountants, Shane Hull from Glynn Tucker Engineers, Paul Hey from Montague Developments, Paul Ryan from Cotton Tree Landscaping and Bosanquet Foley Architects.

In October we helped Community celebrate it's very much anticipated and well attended opening of the Gabba Sub Station on Logan Road, a venue for hire to cultivate an arts and community centre for the area. The GBA donated funds to Community and was duly acknowledged as a Community Champion, for assisting them financially to deliver their programs for the homeless within the community.

Our endeavours of representing the community, local businesses and the precinct has also been recognised. Last year saw both Brisbane Marketing and Tourism Queensland actively engage with the GBA seeking our input in how to develop and market the precinct. Cricket Australia also engaged with the GBA as a stakeholder, a first for community engagement on this scale for Cricket Australia. This relationship needs to continue as well as further engagement with the Brisbane Lions and the Stadium itself. It is also encouraging that the Brisbane City Council has a Precinct Activation team, with whom we meet with late last year.

Woolloongabba is dynamically evolving with its transformation rapidly occurring through the investment of property developers such as Pellicano and ARIA. New shiny businesses are popping up within the areas of renewal which is very encouraging and exciting.

Infrastructure projects such as the Cross River Rail, The Metro, Stanley Street's Bike Way, BCC's Mater Hill/ Fairfield/ Dutton Park masterplan and the stadiums upgrade continue to sit in a state of ambiguity and flux with regards dates of delivery. The GBA continues to be actively involved as stakeholders and we have voiced our request for a considered and coordinated infrastructure plan for the area, offering to assist with its commissioning



and part payment. Requests for letters of support from local businesses have commenced however the momentum and follow through needs to happen with active lobbying.

The GBA executive also made a representation to the Cross River Rail Project and Queensland Rail to deliver consultancy for community engagement and a Precinct masterplan that is done and delivered by LOCALS.

The Stanley Street Bikeway is another matter that needs to be followed up on, particularly the BCC's planning department's internal unfavourable "UNSUPPORTED" response to the GBA's submission for the Stanley Street Beautification Project that did receive prior approval from Councillor Jonno Sri through his discretionary funding mid last year.

On a lighter note, the Gatsby Christmas Party at the Morrison Hotel was an elegant evening with a small stylish gathering of gangsters and flappers. August's Wine, Chocolate and Coffee evening on the Rooftop at Quest Apartments was a favourite of the year for some members. March's networking evening at Quest Apartments again set the bar high for 2018 with Lions AFL ladies Kate Deegan and Sally Young dazzling us with the stories of the first female AFL Grand final at Metricon Stadium. ( Sadly not held at the GABBA due to the grass pitch disruption caused by the Adele Concert).

The fifth edition of the Gabba Guide has now been finalised and will go to print within days. It's currency of two years will align with the proposed shift of the membership currency term and renewal and scheduled 2019 AGM in June.

The association continues to have strong consistent membership however it is time for us to grow, and with that comes planning and strategy. A new constitution is to be drafted to reflect this plan of growth and development, aligning our mission statement, aims and goals. The membership term and rates that have remained constant for more than 10 years and hence are undergoing review and change.

I am very excited by the interest in the executive position this year and the introduction of new positions and honorary life memberships that acknowledge the dedication of past executive committee members. This being said I would like to formally thank Glenn Maymann for his enduring commitment and enthusiasm for the association, in particular his time as treasurer.

Glenn Maymann is to be our first honorary Life Member of the Association.

I wish to acknowledge Glendon Young, Past President and Paul Ryan, past secretary.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Association and it's endeavours.

I am looking forward to a prosperous and fulfilling 2018 strengthening our community and its relationships.

Ms Suzanne Bosanquet. **President**