

President's Report

March 28, 2008

The Executive committee, members and guests, a warm welcome to the 2008 Annual General Meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been a honour to represent the Chamber of Commerce as President in 2007. The Mareeba Chamber is one of the largest, most active and most successful Chambers in regional Queensland and there is no doubt that our presence and standing in the local, and wider business community, continues to grow.

It is worth taking a moment and reflecting on why our Chamber is so successful, whilst other Chambers of Commerce in our region struggle for support and membership.

First, the support of a passionate and dedicated Executive Committee is the foundation of our success, ably supported by our Administration and Liaison Officer, Vicki Henderson and former Promotions Officer Jeanette Sturiale. I would like to thank past and current committee members for their tremendous support, all of whom have given freely of their time. Being a member of the executive committee carries a commitment and responsibility, and I thank you for your efforts.

Second, I would like to acknowledge the support of the Mareeba Shire Council. Their support has been given in a number of ways – financial contributions towards our projects, joint marketing initiatives and the support of Chamber functions and events. A proactive and forward thinking Council is vitally important in attracting investment into our area.

Third, and most important, is the support of you, our members. We continue to achieve record levels of membership and unprecedented levels of sponsorship and support for our activities. New members are being drawn from an increasingly large geographical area, including Cairns and other areas of the Tableland and this demonstrates that Mareeba is seen as a good place to do business.

As an Executive Committee, we constantly remind ourselves that we are a membership based organisation. Our actions must always, in some way, benefit and be of relevance to our members and the wider business interests of the area. In 2007, we sort to facilitate business to business contact through our networking lunches, published our annual report which allows members to showcase Mareeba to prospective investors and business contacts, took an active role in issues of strategic importance, such as the emerging regional plan, launched a new website and launched our enewsletter – all aimed at keeping our members informed of our activities. Lastly, who can forget the 2007 business awards – richly deserved recognition for our business community.

So we look ahead to the coming year. On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, I would like to give a warm welcome to Tom Gilmore, the Mayor-elect of the new Tablelands Regional Council. I wish Tom the best of luck in his new position and we look forward to working with you and your team in the coming years.

We will once again be organising a range of functions and events, including the business awards, the annual Chamber publication, networking functions and the enewsletter. We undertake to lobby on your behalf in respect of issues which collectively affect our business community. We undertake to take an increasingly active role in attracting business investment to our area and we will support initiatives which benefit our region as a whole.

Ladies and Gentleman, thank you for your attendance and we look forward to working with you all in the coming year.