



## **Chamber News Release number 4 – Committee voted in after Annual General Meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2006**

Mareeba Chamber of Commerce would to announce the results of our Annual General Meeting held Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2006.

Len Harris was our chair, all nominations were received, passed and seconded in accordance with standard procedures.

The positions held are:

**President:** Tanya Piggott

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Carlo Veschetti

**Treasurer:** Rhonda Bodkin

**Executive Positions:** Maarten Ringoldus

Grahame Barker

Deborah McGrath

Linda Jaques

Tanya Barker

**Traffic Advisory Representative:** Sharon Harwood

The committee would like to thank outgoing committee members, Susie Barsby & Andre Soncin. Your input and hard work has been appreciated. The chambers planning strategies over the past 12months have lead us to most positions being re-elected in 2006. We would like to welcome Deb McGrath onto our committee and look forward to working with you. We will ensure that our organisation remains strong so we can Move AHEAD.

### **Presidents Annual Report - 2005**

I would like to briefly review the year of 2005 at the Mareeba Chamber.

2005 has been an exciting year with a number of key initiatives undertaken by the executive committee. The committee identified a number of areas that would strengthen the chamber for the future and put these into action. One was the strategic plan to ensure that the chamber would be successful regardless of the members that formed the executive committee. This was presented to the members and the Mareeba Shire Council and was well received. We revamped our lunches to include guest speakers, 5 min speakers and monthly prizes.

We thank all participants at these meetings and recognise the importance of these functions as a networking opportunities and information sharing session for members. In 2005 we provided a forum in these lunches to include product launches and updates for members wishing to showcase their products or services.

We have made some structural changes to the chamber in 2005 including a new logo and a name change to the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce. This was in line with modern business and marketing techniques.

As a committee we increased the hours of our executive promotions officer to better service members and their needs and this has been extremely successful in the progression of the chamber and the membership growth in 2005.

2005 final member figures were 145 members, almost double the 2004 figure of 77. Already we have signed up 85 financial members for 2006 and it is only early Feb.

We included substantial coverage via our website for members and this remains a highly effective marketing tool for the chamber and also members. We were identified as the 4<sup>th</sup> largest chamber behind Cairns, Townsville and Mt Isa in the region at the inaugural Chamber Conference held in Charters Towers in August.

We plan to attend the next Conference held in Ingham this year.

We received extensive coverage on channel 7 during the year with at least 20 News stories either covering the chamber or our views on issues in the region.

In summing up the year, I would like to acknowledge both outgoing member of the committee; Susie Barsby (Vice President) and Andre Soncin (Treasurer) for their commitment and effort during 2005. I wish them the best for 2006 in their future endeavours.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of members for 2005 and look forward to continued support in 2006.

In closing I would like to also thank the remaining committee members; Carlos Veshetti, Rhonda Bodkin, Linda Jacques, Martin Ringanolis, Tanya and Graeme Barker for their support and dedication to the chamber in 2005.

### **2006 President Speech – Tanya Piggott**

Firstly thank you for the opportunity of continuing as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber has mapped out some exciting and progressive events for 2006 and I look forward to assisting the executive committee in the direction of these upcoming events.

We look forward to a positive strong chamber in 2006, which will be achieved through increased membership and a focussed and proactive committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new committee on board for the coming year. Congratulations.

Finally I hope to see you all at our monthly lunches commencing in March and I look forward to Moving the Mareeba Chamber ahead in 2006.

Thank you.