

OP GRAND

EXHIBIT No. 146  
CLERK

*"Supporting Local Business" through "Strengthening the Community"*

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2003**

*Proudly sponsored by the Nerang RSL & Memorial Club*



**"Ecotourism Forum a roaring success!"**

December 1<sup>st</sup> was a roaring success when our Chamber as part of the Western Chambers hosted an Ecotourism Forum in Nerang.

With the fantastic and professional organization of our own Denise Payne, superb keynote speakers and a great attendance, we moved closer to making Nerang the ecotourism hub for our City.

The result has the potential of bringing millions of dollars into our local businesses, encouraging growth and development and continuing the revitalization of Nerang.

Only one Nerang Councillor refused to contribute to the Ecotourism Forum by a special division in Council.

This Councillor did however manage to attend and later disrupt the proceedings by insulting facilitator John Witheriff.

John performed his duties in an exemplary manner drawing on his considerable diplomatic skills. Thank you John for a well run 8 hour marathon.

Thanks to the speakers, the dedicated committee that made this event possible and also thanks to the City Council and Ron Clarke for their generous funding.



**Your Committee:**

Our new committee are all working hard to achieve the Chamber's role in seeking the best solutions for business. With so many issues currently being attended to, the workload is extremely heavy for it's six members.

At present, commitments are taking three days a week to address. We are seeking an additional three members for the committee so that we can remain proactive and effectively implement the tasks we were elected to do.

Please contact Bob Janssen on 0411 741 552 for enquiries.

**Communities**  
**for**  
**Sustainable Futures**

A piece of history was enacted on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November when the moderate environmental organization Communities for Sustainable Futures (CSF) resolved unanimously to give favourable consideration to Chambers of Commerce joining their organization.

Mudgeeraba and Nerang Chambers have joined. More are to follow suite as a result of an agreement reached at the Combined Chambers meeting on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

This has the potential of being the first step in achieving a long sought after balance in environmental protection allowing responsible growth in business, community and infrastructure.

**Environment Protection**  
**or**  
**Environmental Terrorism?**

There has been much in the media recently dealing with our City's infrastructure and lost opportunities due to environmental issues.

Is this environmental protection or environmental terrorism?

Business and growth suffer because of the philosophies of a small but influential minority.

Does government fear the influence of this minority or simply use it as an excuse to do nothing?

Whatever the reason, we must find an equitable balance if business and our City is to move forward.

**The role of the chambers**

There is a general agreement among all of our City's Chambers that we must become more influential in it's Governance.

The best way to achieve this is to take a more active role in the upcoming elections.

How this will manifest itself has yet to be determined, however, there is a sub committee looking into those policies that the Chambers feel are prerequisite in influencing what constitutes a suitable candidate be they incumbent or otherwise.

We will keep you informed.

**Memberships**

It is that time of year again, membership renewals are due and we look forward to all members rejoining with the 5 new businesses who are coming on board this month.

## Commerce Queensland

It's official!, all Gold Coast Chambers are now represented by their presidents as directors on the regional council of Commerce Queensland.

Following the collapse of negotiations of the so called Super Chamber it was recognized that unity was paramount and that we required greater influence at all political and media levels.

Commerce Queensland offers that opportunity and gives us greater clout and the ability to deliver better outcomes for our businesses.

## "Celebrate Nerang"

Contrary to media reports, the Chamber did play a role in the recent "Celebrate Nerang".

While it is true that our delegate attended only one meeting, the Chamber had already contributed \$1000,00 to the commission of artwork for the library in the form of a historical painting by our own Lucinda Leveille.

Quite a few of our members assisted on the day and all the committee members attended. The article appearing in the Bulletin was

## Community Planning

Cinemas, Library, Street scaping, they are all now a reality and have taken years to implement.

Forward planning is what makes these things happen and being proactive is what this Chamber is about.

We cannot afford to rest on our laurels, we are only as good as our next project, we must build for the future to make Nerang a better and more successful community.

Ecotourism, redevelopment, integrated public transport and business growth are some of the things we are currently working on to achieve this goal.

Your input into your Chamber is the basis of it's existence and it is welcome so if you have any ideas please inform your committee.

## Calendar of Events

Our Annual Calendar of Events will be published in the next issue of Chamber News but please book now for our first breakfast in 2004.

7.00 am on Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Town and Country Motel.

Guest speakers are RAY STEPHENS & BRIAN ROWE.

This breakfast is important as both speakers are standing as candidates in government elections and could well represent us over the next 4 or 3 years respectively.

Don't miss this opportunity to be informed and have an influence in your future.

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

### Political Speak

- Q. What religion are you? A. The same as everyone else.
- Q. What is truth? A. Whatever I choose it to be and I reserve the right to change my mind.
- Q. What are ethics? A. The flexible tools I use in my profession.
- Q. What is your political success? A. Tell my constituents what they want to hear and do what I want anyway.
- Q. What is Commitment? A. Political suicide.
- Q. Are there any friends in politics? A. Is the pope a protestant?
- Q. Why do politicians answer a question with a question.? A. What makes you ask that?

### AND WHO SAID POLITICS WAS DULL AND BORING!

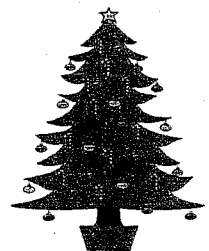
*Annual Golf Classic - Friday 13th February 2004  
Emerald Lakes Golf Course, Carrara*

*We invite you to become a sponsor for this annual fundraiser.....  
And to join with the other members for our first function for the year.  
Mark this in your diary NOW...  
Invitations out next week.*

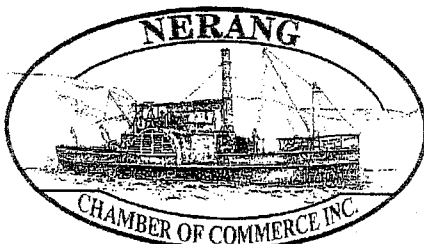
TO ALL!



A MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS, HEALTHY  
AND SAFE NEW YEAR !



FROM YOUR COMMITTEE.



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