

## **From The President's Desk.....**

As we start the new year ahead, before we pull out of the driveway for 2016, it is appropriate that we for just a moment look in the rear vision mirror to confirm where we are going.

2015 I believe was a watershed year for the Kooralbyn Valley Chamber of Commerce, it started in the first quarter with the 'meet and greet nights' to gauge from the many small business entities in the valley whether or not you wanted a chamber, what the chambers role might be, what your expectations could be and how we can all work together to reignite a spark in the local community.

There were a number of goals that your committee set, some of which are still in train as you know, but many that were ticked off during the year thanks to the enthusiasm and engagement of all of our members.

I recall at a committee meeting back in January of last year that we were 'blue-skying' amongst ourselves about the possibility of building a membership of seven people up to the heady heights of perhaps 30 by the end of the year. Now we stand at 42 members, but it's not about the numbers - it's all about the quality, the quality of the people that we are proud to call members, the quality of the achievements that we have made together as a Chamber, the quality of new respect and future commitment from SRC, and finally the greatest achievement that I have seen over the last 12 months - has been a new air of confidence and pride and purpose among the wonderful people that comprise our community in Kooralbyn Valley of over 1200 individuals.

So now that we have climbed a few hills, we are now out on the open road and heading for better and bigger things, we have a website and Facebook page that is the envy of other Chambers, these I see as being the best way of communication not just to ourselves as members, but also as a way that the local community can get first hand factual information of a positive and exciting nature that will benefit all. We have the revitalisation of the Resort and one of the best golf courses in the nation, an indication of prosperity in any region is that of house prices and rents, which are on the increase in the valley, the International School has invested for the future (tangible evidence with record enrolments) and finally - very adjacent to this part of the scenic rim - is a huge investment for the future with the green light about to be turned on for the Bromelton estate.

To further make sure that Kooralbyn gets back 'on the map' Chamber has a major objective in 2016 in engaging in the scenic rim 'Eat Local Week' regional and state wide promotion of bringing new visitors and tourists to the region to experience the food and wine of the scenic rim. We will also be pursuing last year's stated objective of getting a beautiful promotional sign along the Mount Lindsay Highway to show the world where we actually live. In conjunction with the four other Chambers in the scenic rim, we are working with those historically who have in the past put in so much effort and drive into what will be in the future known as the 'Scenic Rim Tourist Drive' - connecting one day in the not too distant future Boonah and Kooralbyn across one of the most majestic drives in South East Queensland.

There are a number of other smaller projects that we believe in the short-term can be completed that we have on the table, not the least of which is continuing to grow our local chamber with high-quality membership and promoting our all-important members business services that they make a living out of – locally.

**We don't promote chamber meetings as a 'social event' with a business content - but rather a 'business event', with a social atmosphere to network and promote each other.**

To become a full voting member of Chamber you need to have a current ABN registration and an active business, to apply for 'Associate' membership (but no voting rights) likewise you need to have had the same, but be essentially a retired – past business owner. The third level of membership we offer for 2016, is that of Corporate, a higher annual fee, but allows up to 3 bona-fide senior employees membership, but with a single vote. Unfortunately, we do not allow spouses to attend meetings, unless they are registered business owners and have their own individual membership.

So, the scene is set for positive, enthusiastic and energetic SB owners & operators to join us in moving forward in 2016, the AGM is in April May and it is everybody's democratic right to put up their hand for a spot on the team to lead, and we encourage that!

THANKYOU to all members and public who have supported us,

JOHN NOONAN