

Chairman's Report Kapunda Business Alliance AGM

Deane Rohrlach 5/11/17

Thank you for attending the Kapunda Business Alliance AGM.

The alliance working group has had another successful year. Membership has been maintained at around 80 members. Although this is a satisfactory number, the working group would like to see it well over this figure. Thanks to secretary Bill Adams, who has conscientiously kept in touch with members and followed up membership issues.

The working group has continued to provide a service to members, which include:

- Following up with Council or others, issues raised by members, attempting with significant success to get these resolved or improved.
- Maintaining the Totally Locally website and the KBA website, which includes pages for members. Thanks to Brenton Wight for his work in keeping this operational and current, and to Bill Adams for his work with Totally Locally to help keep business in our town.
- Recently we welcomed Katharine Crane, proprietor of Crane Creative to the Working Group. Her expertise in electronic media is proving of great benefit to KBA, and I thank her for her recent working in updating the newsletter to a digital format, to be delivered with increased frequency.
- I extend a special thankyou to Leonie Boyd and Katharine Crane for operating the various Facebook pages KBA is associated with. These have continued to grow in popularity and have been most valuable in providing relevant up to date information.
- Liaising closely with Council's Economic Development Department, monitoring developments and initiatives, and providing advice and assistance where possible. John Shane, who is employed by Council to work on specific Economic Development projects has been a long term member of the working group and has worked closely with KBA on many issues. We value his input to the group. General Manager Economic Development Kieren Chappell has attended meetings when available and has made some useful suggestions for future initiatives.
- Providing financial support of a minor nature to events that were likely to bring visitors to Kapunda, with potential benefit to many members. Some examples are given below.
- The "70 things to See and Do in Kapunda Brochure" continues to be useful and much appreciated by visitors. A special thankyou to Bill Adams for his outstanding efforts in distributing the brochure far and wide. As numbers are now becoming exhausted, a task of the working group in the coming year will be to create an update, and look at other options that might be effective in promoting tourism in Kapunda.

Activities the KBA working group have been engaged in include:

- KBA secretary Bill Adams, and I are members of the Kapunda Mural Town Committee, and KBA was active in getting this project off the ground. This has the potential to provide a large economic benefit to Kapunda through increased tourism, and KBA has contributed a further \$2000 to enable this project, and is looking at ways to speed the production of quality murals. The first mural to be completed, on the Kapunda Post Office, has been very well received. KBA member Katharine Crane set up a very successful KickStart online funding initiative that raised \$5700 for the Mural Project.
- \$200 was donated to Scase Auto Show n Shine, and \$250 to the Kapunda Christmas Street Party.

- KBA representatives continued discussions with BankSA re a scheme to promote BankSA loans, that could provide commission funds to a local project (e.g. murals).
- The Working Group agreed to act as the incorporated body under which the Kapunda Car Cruise group could form a subcommittee to run a 3-day car cruise, the aim of which is to raise \$10,000 for hospital equipment. KBA's role including acting as banker and treasurer for the activity, which exceeded all expectations, raising more than \$25,000 for much needed hospital equipment, which has now been delivered. The organisers plan to run this event again, and the Working Group has agreed to act in the same capacity for the second cruise.
- In 2016 Secretary Bill Adams investigated the feasibility of providing reverse cycle air-conditioning in the Kapunda Soldiers Memorial Hall. He found that when split reverse cycle units were installed in the Nuriootpa and Eudunda halls, usage of the halls doubled. The KBA Working Group provided this information to the Hall committee, and Council and the Hall committee have since jointly funded the installation. These air conditioners have now been installed, greatly increasing the comfort of hall users.
- Over the year, the working group has continued working with RDA Barossa and is looking to bringing more RDA training and information sessions to Kapunda to assist local businesses. It is also looking at promoting TAFE courses of benefit to local business.
- KBA has been working with Council on several projects, including improving street signage, the Main Street Zebra crossing, which is now in use. A recently completed RAA survey showed this was successful, with the percentage of people exceeding 40 km/h dropping from about 51% to below 29%, and an excellent level of compliance noted in drivers giving way to pedestrians.
- With Council successfully gaining a \$510,000 grant to proceed with the Town Square and another grant of up to \$159,224 under the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program for the Square and surrounds, Council fulfilled its promise to the community by forming a Community Focus Group to finalise the design. KBA is represented on this committee by Bill Adams, and I am pleased to say the final design is shaping up to be superb. Now the site is cleared, and with the final detailed design set to be completed early in the new year, work should start on creating the square in the first quarter of next year, and be completed before the end of 2018.
- The KBA Working Group organised another very successful Mega Garage Sale that had over 100 individual Garage Sales That brought a huge influx of visitors to the town. Comments from many local Main Street businesses suggest that this event brought considerable extra business to Kapunda on the day, as well as making money for the Working Group, to help fund its operation. Thank you to Bill Adams and Dorian Chambers for their hard work during the Garage Sale.

The KBA working group is a small but active group. Its aim is to support business in Kapunda and promote increased economic activity, without expecting busy business operators to attend a lot of meetings. I thank the committee for their efforts and have appreciated working with such a dedicated group over the last year. I believe KBA's activities and achievements over the last year show that membership is a value proposition for Kapunda businesses, and encourage all to continue their membership. We have the potential to achieve a membership of 150, which would provide a strong voice for local business if achieved.

Brenton Wight, who has been a member of the KBA Working Group, almost from the first, is retiring at the AGM, due to increased work commitments. Brenton has been an enormous support to the Group, particularly in IT and the KBA and Totally Locally websites, and on behalf of the Group I thank him for his outstanding service.