

# Violet Town Business Network

## A sub-committee of Violet Town Action

### MEETING NOTES Wednesday 8 October 2008



#### 1. Present

- Pat Glynn Violet Town Thrifty Link Hardware
- Trish Delahey IGA Friendly Grocer
- Jo Beavis Violet Town Hairdressing
- Pat Storer Victoria Police
- Billy-Jo Hayes AcheiveOT
- Christine Nunn VTBN Coordinator
- Howard Myers The Parish, Walnut Processing & VTAG
- Jo Beavis Violet Town Hairdressing
- Jo Kidgell AchieveOT
- Bruce Cumming Photographer and Consultant

#### 2. Apologies

- Irene Jones Blue Wren Lavender Farm
- Jenny Frigo Bushland Pools and Excavation
- Stuart and Belinda McLaughlin
- David Arnold Land Planning and Contracting
- Andrew Walter Walter Farming

Apologies to anyone who has been missed. Thanks to everyone who replied!

#### *Please Note:*

*The following is a record of discussions and agreements made by the participants and taken by the VTBN Coordinator. It is important to note that whilst the agenda has been followed in this record discussions did not necessarily occur in this order.*

#### 3. Introductions

Participants introduced themselves and Chris welcomed all, especially new participants advised of and received apologies.

#### 4. Buy Local Policy

Chris presented the revised Buy-Local Policy. There was some discussion about the background to its development and how the group thought it could be used. Chris advised that she had received some contact details for clubs etc from Strathbogie Shire Council.

##### *Agreements:*

- That it will be important to identify 2-5 local organisations and businesses willing to sign up to the policy and be ambassadors for it e.g. be quoted in media releases, talk to groups about the importance of buying local etc. Ideas of who to approach first were:
  - Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre
  - Strathbogie Shire
  - Primary School
  - Tennis Club
  - VT Hardware and Plumbing
- The Buy Local policy should be referred to VTAG for endorsement also – Chris to do this when minor changes – spelling and wording – are completed.
- With the VTBN currently asking businesses to contribute to the Christmas Promotion we should leave full-on promotion of the Buy Local Policy until early 2009
- Chris to prepare a draft letter to go to all businesses.

There was also discussion about the need to promote what is available within the community. Some points made included:

- A service list that the whole community has access to. NB Business Directory has been sent to the Businesses but not general public, however, has been highlighted in Village Voice as available on-line, there is a need to further consider how this could happen
- People need to know that goods and services are able to be obtained via local businesses but sometimes they need to be ordered in – so plan ahead.
- Maybe have a business person a month highlighted in the Village Voice

##### *Agreements:*

- Bruce to prepare a Flyer – 10 things you don't know about the services available in Violet Town and District.

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## **5. Buy Local Christmas Promotion**

Chris indicated that she had sent an email or fax to all businesses advising of the Buy Local Christmas promotion and seeking their participation. A number of businesses had already replied a number of whom had not been participants in 2007. Aiming for \$5,000 value in the prizes.

Lisa Norman from Strathbogie Shire has advised that there will be an allocation of funds to VTAG for Christmas promotion/Decorations, however the amount has not been determined as consideration is being given to splitting the funds between more communities.

New participants were informed of the agreements to date (refer minutes September meeting)

*Agreements:*

- Chris to identify appropriate materials for the decorations around trees and provide advice of costs etc at the next meeting.

## **6 VTAG Budget**

Howard and Pat advised that in order to keep better control of income and expenses VTAG wanted to have a budget prepared for each sub-committee.

*Agreements:*

- Chris to prepare draft budget for the next meeting

## **7. Cowslip Street Improvements**

Jo advised that almost all works that are part of the current project have been completed and that a report needs to be prepared for Council.

*Agreements:*

- Jo to draft report for Chris to finalise.
- A note of thanks to all the volunteers to be prepared for the Village Voice. Those to be included are: Alf Block (special thank you); Jenny Whitehead; Trish Delahey; Pat Glyn; Howard Myers; Neil Garrett; Steve Beavis; Jo Beavis; Marie Crocker; Lorraine Sinclair; Janet Allen; Tony Brodie; Mick McLaughlin; Luke Doidge and Community House participants for providing time and Jarrod Doidge and Ross Hanrahan for access to equipment and Anne and David Smyth for providing lunches and coffee.
- Jo to organise a photo of volunteers and access other photo's taken during the up-grade
- Chris to prepare a media release based on the report.

## **8. Limited access to post boxes in Violet Town**

It was identified that all post boxes are currently being utilised at the Post Office and that it is not always appropriate for business mail to be sent to residential addresses.

*Agreements:*

- Chris to prepare a letter to Australia Post about the need for more post boxes in Violet Town

## **9. New Businesses**

Bruce advised the group that he had established a Communications business and that his aim is to use his photography as a significant component, however at present it is more writing based.

Billy-Jo and Jo advised that they have established an Occupational Therapy business in Violet Town which services the region. A significant component of their business will service residential aged care facilities and community members eligible for TAC, Veterans Affairs and Home and Community Care (HACC) support.

It was noted that Rainbow florist had closed.

*Agreements:*

- Businesses to provide details to Chris for inclusion in the Business Directory
- Chris to up-date directory

## **10. Funding**

There was discussion about current funding opportunities. Chris advised that she had forwarded a request for advice to Sue at RDV and that she was yet to reply other than indicate that she would! (NB Sue is involved in Euroa employment issues at present)

*Agreements:*

- Chris to prepare submission to SP AusNet for funds to continue up-grading Cowslip Street
- Chris to prepare letter of support for application to commence upgrade of the Lions Park

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

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The next Business Network meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 November 2008 at  
Goulburn Valley Walnut Processors (Cnr McDiarmids Road and High Street (Green Factory Building))  
commencing at 6.30pm

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12. Meeting Closed 8.30 pm