Chamber News

A REMINDER that the AGM is on Thursday 13t August. Please consider nominating for the Committee. The Constitution states –

21.1 The Committee shall consist of a President, at least one but no more than three (3) Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and a maximum of six (6) others, all of whom shall be financial Members of the Local Chamber and be fit and proper persons to hold such office and be elected at the Annual General Meeting and hold office for twelve months.

21.2 At each Annual General Meeting of the Local Chamber, four (4) members of the Committee for the time being shall retire from office, but shall be eligible upon nomination for re-election.

21.3 The four (4) that shall retire shall be:
(a) First, any Committee Member who has filled a casual vacancy; and
(b) Second, those Committee Members who have served the longest term since they were last elected to the Committee and if the period is equal and none of them are prepared to retire, the retiring Committee Members will be determined by a ballot amongst them.

More information will be sent out during the next month. Please do not hesitate to contact Administration of any information on the positions.

Chamber Meetings Dates 2015

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<th>General Meeting - Gold and Beef Rooms</th>
<th>Thursday 6.00pm</th>
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<td>16 July</td>
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The heart specialist driving an Australian-first cardiology "clinic on wheels" program says the service is saving lives in regional Queensland and should be expanded. Six months on from the launch of the Heart of Australian initiative, the statistics proved the outreach project is working. 55 clinics have been conducted to date and in excess of over 1,200 patients have been seen. The clinics have actually highlighted close to 50 patients who have had potentially life-threatening cardiac conditions who've been successfully treated and can now get on with their lives. The program is looking to extend to offer a range of other medical services which would be of great benefit to the rural communities. Why not other specialities ... why not diabetes, why not kidney disease, why not respiratory disease?

Currently, those living in rural and remote areas of Australia are 44 per cent more likely to die from heart disease than their city-dwelling counterparts, much of that has to do with the lack of access to services. The public/private ‘Heart of Australia’ partnership, which began running clinics in five south-west Queensland towns last October, has now grown to cover a 7,000-kilometre circuit each month. It sees the specially equipped million-dollar semitrailer, accompanied by some of the State’s top cardiac surgeons, travel to 10 communities from Goondiwindi, on Queensland’s southern border, north to Hughenden.

It is felt that the programme has been a great success and they are now working to attract further financial support to continue the service and fund additional clinics. They are hoping that the Government will come on board and support the program.

Charters Towers Chamber of Commerce would like to wish Michael Keck all the best in his new job and thank him for all that he has done for the Community of Charters Towers. We appreciate all the support he has given Charters Towers Chamber and the business community in town. We look forward to meeting the new Manager of the Dalrymple Trade Training Centre.
The Northern Australia white paper will create an “economic powerhouse in the north and is an essential part of our plan to build a strong, prosperous economy and a safe, secure Australia”. The paper which was commissioned in February 2014 will include a $600 million roads package to improve key routes through the north, a $200 million water infrastructure development fund and a $75 million Co-operative Research Centre that will focus on developing northern Australia. A Northern Investment Forum will be held in Darwin in late 2015, simpler land arrangements designed to boost investment and make it simpler for native title bodies to negotiate with businesses, boosted links to the Indo-Pacific region and improved governance arrangements are also foreshadowed. It is hoped by making the right regulations and infrastructure investments; it can encourage jobs and tackle the costs of living far from major cities. Other measures flagged in the white paper include a feasibility analysis for the Nullinga Dam near Cairns, a detailed examination of land-use suitability for stage three of the Ord River irrigation scheme and funding for water resource assessments on Queensland's Mitchell River, Western Australia's West Kimberley region and in the Darwin region. More details will be released on the coming months.

A $13-million bypass - Andrew Daniels Drive, Cloncurry’s heavy vehicle bypass has been opened in June. The 4.6 kilometres of new road was constructed, and a T-intersection works at Railway Street and the Flinders Highway with a four-way intersection at Sir Hudson Fysh Drive has been completed. This will make the central business district safer, but will also be an economic benefit to the town. Cloncurry is in the heart of the North West Queensland Mineral Province, producing 80 per cent of Queensland’s mineral wealth, and this bypass will provide a vital freight link between northern Australia and the east coast and beyond, Mr Hockey said the Australian government was investing a record $13.4 billion in building Queensland’s future infrastructure, “which will help drive economic growth, slash travel times and create thousands of jobs”.

Due to the large construction projects in Cairns business leaders and education facilities have combined with major advancements in student trade training to tackle the region’s spiralling youth unemployment rate. Hundreds of young future tradespeople in Cairns are in training to fuel the city’s push for a local workforce to adequately support major incoming developments. Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland Far North Chairman Brett Moller said a major part of the region’s economy getting back on track was ensuring Cairns had the skilled workforce to meet construction needs. A new trade training initiative harnessing school students could be the solution. “With such high youth unemployment, the business and employment sectors should be encouraging our schools to really look at trade and technical skills as career pathways,” Advance Cairns CEO Mark Matthews said there was “no question” Cairns must develop a pipeline of young people gaining certifications in a range of trades. There are a number of projects in the pipeline – such as the Aspial seven towers project /21 navy patrol boats $2 billion local tender / the Aquis $8.15 billion mega-resort. The $9.8 million Cairns Catholic Vocational Trade Training Centre, which is spread across six sites in Woree, Cairns, Herberton, Mareeba and Innisfail, with about 120 students are working towards certificates in construction, engineering and hospitality through the centre with many already being headhunted for apprenticeships with the industry employers they spend a day a week working for, could be the answer.
A FACT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

Queen of martial arts' Cheng Pei-pei has added international muscle to the Australian production of *Goldstone*, as filming wrapped up in outback Queensland. The *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* actress joined the set of Ivan Sen's contemporary western thriller shot in Middleton.

The overall Queensland spend is expected to reach more than $2 million, including transportation, construction, accommodation, retail and hospitality. This will play a big role in providing an economic boost to the local community. We estimate the production has already spent over $500,000 in the small townships of Middleton, Winton, Boulia, Longreach, Barcaldine, Townsville, Dalby, Roma, Charleville, Blackall, Mt Isa and Cairns. *Goldstone* is the continuation of Ivan Sen's 2013 film *Mystery Road*.

How about holding a Meet & Great?

It is a useful way of getting to know other Chamber Members and is wonderful for networking your business.

We are looking for interested businesses to contact Chamber administration for more details.