

~ Our purpose ~

To initiate and facilitate connection and collaboration in supporting businesses that will enhance the sustainability of the Phillip Island economy and community.

Welcome to NEW PIBN MEMBERS

Over the last six months, it is exciting to see that the Network has more than doubled, with new members enjoying the benefits of belonging to a supportive network. Welcome to our newest members:

- PHILLIP ISLAND MARKETS • MAS TRAINING • WESTERNPORT WATER BOARD
- PICAL • OFFSHORE DESIGNS

End of Year message

PIBN Members enjoyed a great evening celebrating 2021 with end of year drinks out at the Phillip Island Circuit Track. Thank you for sharing this networking opportunity. We also would like to thank Luke and his

fantastic team, who looked after us for the night. The food and treat of watching some track work was an excellent opportunity to see what the track offers from the corporate suite function boxes overlooking the track. Great corporate space for hire.

A word from the committee

The PIBN Committee echo the President's sentiments in thanking the valuable contributions of the committee members who have passed on the baton, including our Chairperson Claire - THANK YOU.

Welcome to our new Committee Members, Joanne Dixon - MAS Training, Jess Patman - Wildlife Coast Cruises, Judy Pay - We are Phillip Island, Michael Armour - Ramada Resort. Over

the upcoming months, we look forward to introducing them to you in our newsletters.

As it turns out, PIBN has an opening for an enthusiastic President. If you are a member of PIBN and would like to contribute to a growing network, working alongside a supportive committee to support local business, please let us know. If you would like to discuss the role with one of our Executive Committee Members, we are happy to have a chat. Email Fiona.admin@pibn.com.au

Meet one of our Members & Committee Member

Michael Armour - Ramada

Let's get to know Michael a little better.

Michael has worked in hospitality for 16 years. Previously for Radisson, Mantra Group, Mirvac, Accor and now Wyndham.



His time with Wyndham Resorts was spent managing their resorts in Port Douglas (Ramada Resort by Wyndham Phillip Island), Hobart (Club Wyndham Seven Mile Beach - formerly Ramada Resort by Wyndham Seven Mile Beach) and since mid-2019 the Ramada Resort by Wyndham Phillip Island.

Michael has enjoyed working with local business forums/networks similar to PIBN in Port Douglas and Hobart.

What's Michael been busy with lately? The year 2020 saw the completion of the refurbishment of 137 villas at Ramada Phillip Island. Rebranding the Ramada onsite restaurant that many locals frequently visit, as well as the revamp of the resort activities with a lot of exciting plans for the property's future.

Great for families who are visiting our local families. The bushland environment is perfect for allowing people to relax quickly.

Michael says he is "Passionate about supporting and promoting local businesses to my resort guests and villa leaseholders".

PIBN is very excited to have Michael join us not only as a Member but as one of our new Committee Members.

MAS Experience & Local Jobs Program- Round Table Webinar

We invited the local hospitality industry to join a great initiative to assist in finding & training staff.

Local Jobs provided a summary of outcomes and planning moving forward.

"These initial conversations will be the starting point for follow up with providers, training organisations, Bass Coast council and many more.

Points raised included immediate and longer-term challenges, acknowledging that there is no overnight fix.

One immediate opportunity is connecting businesses with service providers with suitable and appropriate candidates.

These relationships are critical to preparing, screen match and referring appropriate candidates and supporting them in sustainable employment opportunities.

To progress mid to long term strategies, we propose a planning session in February 2022".

The following items will be actioned before our next session in February.

- Contact details to be exchanged between Employers and Employment Service Providers
- Discussions with local training providers to ensure Hospitality training is available in the region, especially in
- Responsibility Serving in Alcohol
- Barista training
- Food Handler Certificate
- Commercial Cookery Certification
- Further discussions and updates with Employment Service Providers on referrals to Employers
- Discussions with Bass Coast Economic Development team about jobseeker barriers to employment ie: accommodation, transportation etc.

If you are interested in finding out more, please let us know by emailing admin@pibn.com.au

Local Jobs Program have also invited employers to provide more information on any current roles that you may require assistance with from the local providers.

Presidents Report

As chair of the Phillip Island Business Network, I am delighted to reflect on the 2020-2021 office year, and all that has been achieved.

It has been an honour to work with the first PIBN Board and Marketing & Administration Officer Fiona Van Meurs this year, and I know the organisation is in a fantastic place going forward.

This report highlights PIBN's milestones, achievements and challenges over the past year.

This year, like all of our member businesses, we have been confronted with unexpected and rapid challenges, including cancelled and changed events and often changing restrictions to communicate related to the pandemic. Despite this and their business challenges, our volunteer committee continued to show up with a tremendous amount of effort in supporting our members. With the appointment of Fiona Van Meurs, we were able to work actively in supporting our local businesses.

This year has been the first full year of operation of the Phillip Island Chamber of Commerce following an administration period. Our diverse committee now includes representation from major stakeholder groups and businesses North Pier Hotel, Coastal View Financial Services, Ripples' n' Tonic, A Maze'N Things, Bass Coast Shire, Flowers of Phillip Island, Destination Phillip Island, Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit, Phillip Island Nature Parks SMAC Advertising and Wildlife Coast Cruises.

They all proudly represent you as a professional, productive, respectful, development-focused group. They were supported by the genuinely warm, caring, productive and intelligent Marketing & Administration Officer Fiona Van Meurs. This vital organisation has fantastic growth ahead with this team and will be shortly completing a Strategic Planning Day to consolidate the organisation's vision



and direction. We invite members to be involved in this process and have input into the organisation's direction through our online survey and by nominating yourself to attend the strategic day.

We began a large portion of this year restarting the organisation, building our prospectus, policies, processes, website, social media and all of our print materials. A big thank you to committee member Shane McLaren of SMAC advertising, who created our fresh new materials and is clear, fast and immediately on brand to work with. We were greatly supported by Jaqueline Alves-Ferreira during the rebuilding process, who worked heavily with us through her 'Working for Victoria' role with Bass Coast Shire.

We also spent much of the early term consulting and representing our members during the planning of Outdoor Dining. A huge amount of volunteer hours went into meetings, consultations and feedback processes, and it is important to acknowledge the committee for their dedication and time during this process, even as their own businesses were dealing with their own set of pandemic challenges.

Midway through this term, with thanks to the Department of Job's, Precincts and Regions, we were successful in securing a Business Chambers and Traders groups grant. We have been rolling this out as part of our "Reconnect, Resurrect and

Reincarnate" strategy which included dealing with aggressive behaviours workshops, postponed small business mentoring sessions as well as providing us with the means to get out and connect with more and more businesses.

With the appointment of Fiona Van Meurs in May this year we have seen the organisation now transition to an operational and consistent business network with the return of our regular and very informative newsletters, an increase in members and a number of fantastic informative and connecting events both online and in person. We have worked consistently on regularly connecting in person with members, stakeholders and PIBN representation on several external committees.

Thank you to Geoff (A Maze'N Things), John (Wildlife Coast Cruises) and Kate (Phillip Island Nature Parks), who stayed on after their period as administrators to help the Network restart - the organisation would not exist in its present form without your efforts.

Thank you also to Jo (Flowers of Phillip Island) and Shane (SMAC Advertising) for your time and work with the committee this office year.

You will all be missed, and we wish you all the best in the future.

Most importantly, thank you to our members for your support of PIBN, each other, and our unique region in a truly testing time. I can move on from my role as chair knowing that you are supported by each other, a fantastic committee and Marketing & Administration Officer. Thank you all for representing what makes Phillip Island truly special, and I very much look forward to a bright and productive year ahead in business alongside all of you!

Claire Sawatzky

**Outgoing Chairperson - Phillip Island Business Network
Barefoot Potential**

Annual Strategic Planning Day

PIBN newest Committee Members had the opportunity to join existing members for a successful Strategic Planning Day held out at the Penguin Parade Education Rooms with Andy Rooke mentoring the event. (I would like to add it is a modern, well-equipped meeting venue with excellent catering - be sure to keep them in mind for your next event).

Exciting discussions around improvement and opportunities were workshopped for committee members to contribute positively and proactively moving

forward into 2022. A defined purpose was adopted, with all committee members eager to achieve outcomes.

PIBN's purpose is "To initiate and facilitate connection and collaboration in supporting businesses that will enhance the sustainability of the Phillip Island economy and community".

We anticipate February will see our first b2b of 2022 themed around sustainability and how local businesses can improve environmental practices. We have two local businesses/groups lined up to share some exciting ways they are doing their bit. We look forward to having them present. More details on this session later.

We would love to hear how your business or staff contribute to a sustainable future. Can we share your efforts in our newsletter? Are you a pick up or drop off point for a recyclable product/s.

One of our newest committee members suggested pooling together and bulk buying sustainable consumables! There are many great ideas, but we need your ideas and support to help each other. Let's get these discussions happening.

Have you joined our Members only facebook page? Engage with fellow members.

Visit - **Phillip Island Business Network Members.**

Get behind our local business owners

A new, limited edition coffee table cookbook dedicated to farmers and chefs of Phillip Island and Bass Coast was launched this week.

The book, called Over the Bridge, is the first of its kind for the area and features more than 30 stories, recipes and hundreds of photos, including landscape shots of the island and surrounding ocean.

Farmers interviewed include Phillip Island Strawberries' Roger Morris, who

innovatively grows the fruit with one arm, following a horrific workplace accident. Other stories have a keen surfing family, the Bismires of Cape Woolamai, who runs Ocean Reach Brewing and even source saltwater from their favourite surf break to use in one of their beers.

On the mainland, there is a Grantville truffle producer, a self-sufficient garlic and vegetable grower, and Bassine Speciality Cheeses' Glen Bisognin, who gives an insight into the tough job of dairy farming.

Over the Bridge has been produced by a new

publishing arm of the Advertiser, called Chicory Publishing. It was designed on Phillip Island and printed in Melbourne, using sustainable paper stock.

Author Sarah Hudson worked with photographer Steph Thornborrow over the past year to interview and photograph passionate foodies from across the area.

Sarah said the 200+ page book offered a different perspective on the island and waterline communities for locals and visitors alike, which is not often seen or celebrated.



Purchase online at:
www.pisra.com.au/over-the-bridge

Workshops & events

- February - Second round table discussion with Local Jobs and MAS Experience DTC
- Late February DTC - B2B opportunity
- ATEC and Ecotourism Australia present 'How to make sustainability your business.'

Presented by Nadine Schramm, Ecotourism Australia

This two-part sustainability training program is available on-demand through the ATEC Academy online learning platform. Register to access the learning videos and practical resources, including the Sustainability Checklist for short, medium and long term goal planning.

- Following the self-directed training webinars, registrants will be invited to a live Q&A session with ATEC and Ecotourism Australia

Email: development@atec.net.au for more details

Helpful links

Bass Coast Employment Services APM Employment Services

Rebecca Waterson
rebecca.waterson@apm.net.au
0419 906 388

Workways John Harbour

jharbour@workways.com.au
0457 442 547

AtWork

Lyndal Mitchell
lmitchell@atworkaustralia.com.au
0439 901 535

Max Employment

Colleen Gilbee
wonthaggi@maxemployment.com.au
03 5671 4975

Qualify Training

Emma Waghorne
emma@qualifytraining.com.au
0417 485 819

Mission Australia

Kate Brierley
BrierleyK@missionaustralia.com.au
0491 147 426

Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme

The Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme has been reintroduced by the Victorian Government to alleviate the financial hardship faced by tenants and landlords as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Scheme will be available to businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$50 million that have suffered a decline in turnover of at least 30% due to COVID-19.

Applications close 11:59 pm, 15 January 2022, or when funds are exhausted.

Virtual Mentor Session

Business Victoria offers free online mentoring sessions to help you start or grow your small business. Available Monday to Friday, the one-on-one mentoring sessions will provide information on your business idea or how to grow your existing business.

Look out for your 2022 members sticker in the mail.

Please display these proudly on your place of business identifying you as a valued PIBN Member.



TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP visit www.pibn.com.au or contact Fiona at: admin@pibn.com.au

Would you like to have your business supported by additional sponsorship opportunities? Take out a Platinum Membership.



A Maze'N Things	Patricia Jamieson Celebrant
A Maze'N Things Holiday Park	Phillip Island Apartments
Amaroo	Phillip Island Glamping
Anything Goes	Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit
Abicor Southern	Phillip Island Golf Club
Baden's Art Caravan	Phillip Island Holiday Homes
Barefoot Potential	Pino's Trattoria
Bass Coast Paintball	Pioneer Kayaking
Bass Coast Shire	Poppy in the Willows
Bassine Speciality Cheeses	Priceline Pharmacy
Betty's Glass	Purple Hen Wines
Cheeky Goose	Phillip Island Chocolate Factory
Coastal View Financial Services	Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre - PICAL
Connection Accounting	Phillip Island Getaway
Cowes Retreat	Phillip Island Helicopters
Cowes Serviced Apartments	Phillip Island Markets
CYC The Island	Phillip Island Nature Parks
Destination Phillip Island	PI & SR Advertiser
Diannes Venture Tours	Ramada Resort
Flowers of Phillip Island	Ripples n Tonic
G'Day Tiger	SMAC Advertising
Genesta House B&B	Subway Cowes
GJ Gardner Home Bass Coast	Thai on the Island
Hilltop Apartments	The Islander
Holistic Essential Therapy & Consulting	The Shearing Shed
Hotel	The Spicy Duck
Inspired Honey Psychology	The Waterboy
Kaloha Resort	Tropicana Motor Inn
MAS Training	Videre Consulting Pty Ltd
National Vietnam Veterans Museum	Warook Farm
North Pier	Westernport Water Board
Offshore Design	Wildlife Coast Cruises
P.I Art & Craft Community Gallery	Willow's Pantry

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP



We Are Phillip Island