



## **Rockdale Chamber of Commerce General Meeting**

### **Wednesday June 6, 2007**

Time 8:00am – 8:55am

Venue: Grand Hotel – Princess Hwy, Rockdale

Chairperson: Rami Abdallah

#### **Attendees:**

John Dickson – Dickson's Fashion + Shoes

George Kamateros – Zorbas Café + Restaurant

John Touma – The Property Centre Rockdale

Craig Bucknall - Bullie Graphics

Maria Tsounias – Rockdale City Council

Stergia Papangelis– Rockdale City Council

Phil Favero - The Good Guys

Allan Wight - Metropolitan Funerals

Walter Herman - W.Herman Real Estate

Rami Abdallah – Richardson and Wrench

Kent Alderson - Aldersons Pharmacy

Glen Pearse - St George Illawarra Dragons

Angelina Grose - St George Illawarra Dragons

Rodney Handen - Handen & Associates

Rodney Goff – Grand Hotel Rockdale

John Goff – Grand Hotel Rockdale

Alan Smith - A&L Easy Printing

Mohammad Mobayed – Trendy Hair Cuts

Shaun Fraser - Rockdale Community Church of Christ

Zahwat Hoballah – ITSYS Australia Pty Ltd

**1. Meeting Open:** 8:00am

Rami opens meeting and welcomes everyone.

**2. Apologies:**

Dr Giannisis - Rockdale Dentists

Nazmy Salib - Soul Pattinson

Tom – Bar Frisco

Paul De Maria - Hales Redden

**3. Council Update** was given by Stergia from Rockdale City Council.

**4. General Business**

Question about under awning lighting was raised. Marrickville & Bexley shops have it, why not Rockdale?

Rami - So many building owners makes it difficult to arrange. Maybe a Lighting Improvement Grant could be proposed.

Question regarding the R hand turn lane from Bay St to Princes Hwy (going south). Many accidents have occurred because there is no R hand turn arrow.

Tuesday 12, June Rami & other members will be attending an Economic Forum at Brighton-Le-Sands. Council, developers, Investment Banks, Media & Chamber of Commerce will attend.

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### Marketing and Advertising

- **Group Advertising** - Thanks to the efforts of Alan and Lea, the compilation of the advertising brochure has been very successful. All spaces have been sold and there has been a positive response to the project.
- **Small Business Awards** - This year's awards are being organised by Council. Stay tuned there will be more information, about the night and nominations, to follow.
- **Outdoor Dining** – There was an inspection carried out of all the Rockdale City Council area in regards to outdoor dining. Council is promoting this type of approval to cafes and restaurants, and is waiving the application fee until the 30 June. There has been a favourable response and we are looking forward to bringing more businesses out onto the footpath to promote attractive outdoor activities.
- **Updated Chamber of Commerce Committee Leaflet** – We are in the process of getting updated photographs of our committee members so that an updated leaflet can be produced. If you haven't organised your photo yet, please see Darwin at Rainbow Camera House and please fill in the short questionnaire while you are there !
- **Customer Service Centre open on Saturdays** – The Customer Service Centre is now opening on Saturdays from 9.30am – 1.30pm. There are bbqs and other small events being held to advertise these new times.

### Traffic and Access

- **Loading Zones** – The issues of combined loading zones will be put to the Traffic Committee in June to look at adopting changes for a trial period. More information will be shared as it is received.
- **Waines Crescent** - Approval has been given to the conversion of existing 'No Parking' restrictions to a 'Loading Zone' and a '30 Minute Parking Limit' in Waines Crescent west of Princes Hwy, Rockdale.
- **Dickson's Shoes footpath** – The Chamber of Commerce has written a letter to Council outlining the concerns of the state of the footpath outside Dickson's Shoes and request immediate action. Manager Technical Services has advised that the work is scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> June. Council is in the process of getting approval from the RTA to close a lane to do the

work.

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**Capital Works**

- **War Memorial** – The works on the War Memorial are almost completed. We have had to organise a new quote for the shade sails, which we are waiting on. Once the installation of the sails is completed, we will organise a small event to hand back the site to the RSL.

**Parking**

- **Target Car Park** – At the Council meeting 16/05/07 approval was given to the parking restrictions 'No Parking", 8pm- 8.30am on the top deck of the Target carpark. A boom gate will be provided as well as 'one way exit only' spikes. This scheme will be reviewed at 3 months and at 6 months. Council is in the process of designing and implementing these changes.

**Strategic Planning**

- **Business List and Vacancy List** – We recently have conducted a walkabout in the Town Centre to update our business list which was outdated. New businesses have been listed and old ones deleted. While doing this we have also compiled a list of vacant shops which we are hoping to use as a tool to liaise with Real Estate agents in the hope of finding occupants for the properties. We are finding more and more that franchise and other businesses are contacting us for potential sites and this information could be beneficial in marketing our area to potential tenants.

**Homework**

***Are there any real estate agents and / or businesses that you know of that are planning to move into the Rockdale Town Centre that we should be aware of?***

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