

## Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 26 August 2020, 1800  
Via Zoom

### Attendees:

No.	Member Organisation/Observer	Represented by (person attending)
1	Creston Real Estate	Ashton Ashokkumar
2	Macpherson Kelley Lawyers	Jason Ashton
3	Empowered to Speak	Paul Broom
4	NAB	Paul Wood
5	SEMMA (guest)	Vonda Fenwick
6	Amazon	Michael Finiotis
7	Vince & Associates	Ian Grant
8	City of Greater Dandenong	Frances Grigoriou
9	Biz Power	Rabi Gunaratnam
10	RJ Sanderson (1)	Jayson Perinayegon
11	Labour Resource Management	Peter Helmore
12	Pyramid Property	Edy Chandra Xu
13	Ashfords (1)	Celia Lopez
14	SEMMA (guest)	Justine McLaughlin
15	Chisholm	Lisa Moore
16	Telco Independent	Bryan O'Reilly
17	Knight Owl	Richard Payne
18	Ashfords (2)	Ross Raymond
19	Ashfords (3)	Shashi Dil
20	RJ Sanderson (2)	Roy Sanderson
21	Australian Workforce	Danny Sena
22	Value Added Personnel	Charlotte Tabatabai
23	Global People Two	Louise Thomson
24	SEMMA (guest)	Beverly Witherby

**Apologies:** None

**Minutes:** Tiffany Murray

○ **Welcome**

Paul Broom welcomed members and guests including Vonda Fenwick CEO of SEMMA. The Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce 73rd Annual General Meeting was officially opened at 6:05pm.

○ **Confirmation of minutes of the previous AGM**

Proposed that:

“the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (held on Wednesday 21 August 2019) as circulated and amended are accepted and confirmed as true and correct”.

Moved: Lisa Moore (Chisholm)

Seconded: Jason Ashton (M&K)

Carried

○ **Business arising from the previous minutes**

None

○ **President's Report**

Paul Broom delivered the President's report and stated that a PDF version of the annual report has been distributed prior to the meeting and will also be available on the Chamber website in the immediate future.

Paul announced that this will be the end of his Presidency period. Paul has greatly enjoyed his presidency for the last 5 years and feels as the chamber will continue to grow in strength

‘As we look forward to a post Covid -19 world I am excited at the prospects for the Chamber with a new President and fresh ideas building on the strengths of this robust and diverse business community’.

Acknowledging Covid as a tough time Paul presented news that the federal and state government are investing \$28 million to build a rail link to the new Dandenong South Intermodal Terminal. This will provide direct rail for containers from the Port of Melbourne to Dandenong. The move will create hundreds of jobs and reinforce the importance of the logistics sector in the region. The number of containers using road freight will be reduced thereby improving traffic flow. The project will make a massive contribution to the business community and economy to the South East. Paul also recognised the Noble Park Aquatic Centre Dandenong has recently received a \$3.3 million grant from state government for redevelopment that was supported by the Greater Dandenong Chamber.

As the Chamber's membership continues to grow, we should see a greater impact on surrounding businesses. Key Chamber directions have included:

- Maintain financial strength
- Work towards owning our own premises
- Grow membership with a goal of 500 members
- Continuing to add value for members

Paul extended his thanks to:

**Our Management Team** of Tiffany and Tamara for excellent work through a challenging environment.

#### **Our Platinum Partners & Gold Members**

All members and a great welcome to all those who have joined since last year!

A special mention to Ashfords who are not only a Platinum Partner but also for their ongoing treasurer role support.

**Thank you to all Sponsors of the Chamber Awards, Grand Final Charity Lunch and our various events.**

**Our Vice Presidents** - Peter Helmore who stepped down earlier last year, Lisa Moore & Roy Sanderson

**Our Treasurer** – Celia Lopez

#### **Our Other Committee Members**

Jason Ashton  
Rabi Gunaratnam  
Paul Wood  
Jayson Perinayegon  
Lisa Moore  
Ian Grant  
Frances Grigoriou

#### **Membership**

Presented by Tiffany Murray

**Our focus during the Covid lockdown period has been to build a new website, offering greater benefits to members and increased efficiency to Chamber staff with a built in CRM. We have also been focussed on evaluating our strengths and weaknesses to generate a business RAVDA evaluation in conjunction with Ross Raymond at Ashfords to move the Chamber forward with business recovery post Covid.**

The Chamber has been in discussion with the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to build on a partnership of sorts. No details of this have yet been confirmed.

Membership as of June 30, 2020 was 163.

Membership renewal has been pushed out to September 30 and we are hoping for a positive renewal rate.

#### **Events**

Presented by Tamara Moore

Events affected from March onwards due to COVID-19. Event attendance was very good for 2019 with an average of over 100 attendees per event.

With Covid restrictions we were able to adapt our events and still bring value and support to our members with online workshops and networking We have also focused on growing our social media presence and generating fresh and new YouTube content.  
We are continuing to plan an awards program for 2021.

### ○ **Treasurer's Report**

Presented by Celia Lopez.

Celia joined the Chamber Executive early in 2020 as Svetlana left Ashfords.

A full audited financial report is supplied withing the annual report.

The Chamber has been significantly impacted by Covid 19 and consequently shows a reduction in events revenue. The Chamber has however been able to access cash stimulus payments from state and federal government and wage subsidies to continue to remain financially strong. Membership renewals were extended to September. The figures up until 31 May 2020 remained positive with the bottom line much better than 2019.

The impacts of Covid will be shown from April onwards.

No questions raised for the Treasurers Report.

Proposed that:

“the Greater Dandenong Chamber Treasurer's report and audited financial statement for 2020 be accepted”

Moved: Celia Lopez (Ashfords)

Seconded: Ashton Ashokkumar (Creston Real Estate)

Carried

Proposed that:

“the 2020 Annual report for the Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce as presented in digital and verbal form be accepted”

Moved: Paul Broom (Empowered to Speak)

Seconded: Paul Wood (NAB)

Carried

### ○ **Election of Office Bearers**

#### **Election of Office bearers**

All positions declared as vacant and open.

One nomination received for President being Lisa Moore.

A Call for nominations from the floor for President - no nominations received.

Lisa More duly elected as effective President for the year 2021

One nomination received for Vice President being Paul Broom.

A call for nominations from the floor for Vice President - no nominations received.

Paul Broom duly elected as Vice President for the year 2021

One nomination received for Treasurer/Secretary being Celia Lopez.

A call for nominations from the floor for Treasurer/Secretary - no nominations received.

Celia Lopez duly elected Treasurer/Secretary for the year 2021

A vote held on the total number of committee members.

Previously 12 positions have been held.

Proposed that:

“the Chamber committee is limited to a total of 12 people”.

Moved: Paul Broom (Empowered to Speak)

Seconded: Ashton Ashokkumar (Creston Real Estate)

Nominations received for general committee positions on the Executive from Jason Ashton, Rabi Gunaratnam, Paul Wood, Jayson Perinayegon, Ian Grant, Frances Grigoriou, Ross Raymond

A call for nominations from the floor for general committee - no nominations received.

The following are duly elected to the committee of the Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee for the 2020-2021 year.

Jason Ashton	(M&K)
Rabi Gunaratnam	(Biz Power)
Paul Wood	(NAB)
Jayson Perinayegon	(RJ Sanderson)
Ian Grant	(Vince Associates)
Frances Grigoriou	(City of Greater Dandenong)
Ross Raymond	(Ashfords)

A total of 11 people form the 2021 elected committee.

### **Official Recognition**

Paul Broom formally recognized Roy Sanderson for 27 years of service to the Chamber committee. Roy's contribution has seen him fill the role of Treasurer for 7 years followed by President for 2 years and Vice President for a number of years. Roy's service to the Chamber has been above and beyond, and he will be duly missed. Roy has stated that he will remain an active support for the annual Grand Final Charity lunch as he has done so for the past 20 years.

### **Address by incoming President, Lisa More**

Lisa acknowledged Paul, Peter and Roy for the support, advice and mentorship provided in the lead up to taking on this role.

Lisa looks forward to future growth of the Chamber by building membership value through:

- Connecting businesses, and more importantly, people during these ever-changing times
- Identifying the different needs of local businesses
- Diversifying services

This will be done by:

- Retaining successful events and networking
- Generating creative networking in the time of COVID-19
- Building partnerships
- Strengthening governance and reducing risk

### **○ General Business**

None

**Meeting closed:**

6:45pm