



Item #	Item name	Responsibility
	Belinda suggested Alan from Aussiebeef Steak House as a potential committee member	
4.	President's Report TABLED	Michelle
5.	Treasurer's Report Report presented in Anita's absence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged Receivables – currently being processed as credit notes. • We were successful in securing a Small Business Month grant of \$2,500 for training programs being delivered in May. • Results from the extra funding from SDRC should be known by Friday 10th April. • Need to explore external grant options in the future. • Currently have no fundraising working group leader – Belinda expressed interest after the Business Excellence Awards in August. Motion to adopt: Aline Second: Trudy CARRIED	Michelle
6.	Correspondence Register Business arising: <u>Star Liquor / Central Hotel Signage</u> Communication received from Anne Hilton. Committee resolved this matter is not within the chamber's remit and should be handled by Council. Council to be informed of the correspondence. Chamber will not take a formal stance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Contact Sonja Johnson at Council; advise Anne Hilton of position. 	Michelle
7.	Sub Committee Reports <u>EVENTS:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events Calendar: updated. • Breakfast –Orchard Services: 22 April. Michelle to lead. Add to calendar and immediate promotion. There is a cost associated with this one - \$30 members, \$40 non members. It is also a general meeting. • Warwick Manufacturing Hub Breakfast: 23 April. Add to calendar and minutes. 	Nicci



Item #	Item name	Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tradies Barbecue – Country Club: 27 May. Nicci to lead. NAB/Braun as speakers. Venue to be confirmed. Josh Cavallaro confirmed as speaker, Belinda to contact Dan and Michael, possibly find an accountant to speak as well. • Business Month – Workplace Capability Training Series: Two workshops planned 20 May and 3 June. Links to be included for promotions. <p><u>MEMBERSHIP:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership outreach calls ongoing. Members to complete calls and record on shared spreadsheet. • Focus on tradie engagement; May 27 barbecue identified as key activation opportunity. • Aline’s outreach template to be shared with all committee members. • Compile outreach call responses into consolidated summary for committee (2 weeks). • Develop updated ‘Snapshot of Achievements’ infographic for tradies once Samara provides data. Value proposition on website needs to be updated to include offer provided by Heritage Bank. <p><u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs Expo event progressing. Presenters and exhibitors to be confirmed; timetable to be published. • Currently coordinating expo presenters, organise reels and promotional content ahead of expo. <p><u>STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report Tabled – part of President’s Report. <p><u>WORKING GROUPS</u></p> <p><u>FUNDRAISING: - No update other than successful grant as already reported.</u></p> <p><u>WHY LEAVE TOWN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebranding discussed; current name not resonating. New name/branding options to be presented at next meeting. Current options could include Granite Belt Gifts, Granite Belt Bucks, Stanthorpe Dollars and 	



Item #	Item name	Responsibility
	<p>Granite Gold – slogan possibly “Keep the Gold in the Granite Belt!”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been reported difficulties in using the card at some locations however emphasis on businesses ensuring that their current EFTPOS machines are registered with WLT. Reconnect with Rachel to troubleshoot, report back to committee. • Nathan Colyer, Granite Belt Cleaning & Hospitality, is happy to keep being a Load Up Store, just got to check with Lyndsay. • How many cards are left currently? Do we need to use these up before the rebranding? • How do we get businesses to promote themselves more as WLT participating stores? <p>Action: Trudy to meet with Rachel re rebrand process and costs (Friday).</p> <p><u>BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital marketing underway; • Q&A session planned for the 21st April • Judges required – liaise with Tenterfield and possibly Scenic Rim. • Sponsorship: SDRC is sponsoring the Emerging Leader award, Mayor Hamilton has expressed interest in the MC sponsorship. Frank Spano has requested more information and we are waiting to hear from Heritage Bank and CavInsure. Stanthorpe Today offered to provide In-Kind Media support however Working Group needs to identify what promotions are needed. Samara to send out more Sponsorship Opportunity emails this week. • Trophy RFQ closed 10 April. Review three artwork concepts; feedback to Samantha. Advocate for custom designs. <p><u>SCRIP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported in president’s report. • What is Chamber’s stance on water security? Needs a dedicated session to work through this and develop our own position for the Chamber. 	



Item #	Item name	Responsibility
	<p><u>SDRC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple organisations (including Council and QTC) are currently surveying businesses on fuel impacts. Committee members encouraged to provide brief details of any fuel-related issues affecting their business (via text or email) for collation and submission to relevant bodies. • Invite Shane Sykes to the May meeting. • SDRC will have a stall at Farm Fest this year. • Manufacturing Hub Breakfast – Warwick Shane advised that the Queensland Manufacturing Hub (Toowoomba), in partnership with SDRC, will host a Manufacturing Hub Breakfast at Warwick Council Chambers on Thursday 23 April, 6:45am–8:30am. Target attendees include SME and large manufacturers, supply chain and related manufacturing businesses, and manufacturers operating in the Southern Downs. Samara to add event details to the Chamber calendar and include member communications as appropriate. 	
8.	<p><u>New Business</u></p> <p><u>Item # 1 – INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activation Strategy, outlining focus sectors (agribusiness/agritech, tourism, services/trades, health and retirement living) and key target audiences (industry investors, State and Local Government, industry bodies and regional universities). • Initial (0–3 month) actions include: stakeholder mapping and investor database development; individual meetings with key government and industry contacts; and finalising promotional materials. Subsequent phases will involve broader market engagement (including potential investor familiarisation tours and an investment landing page, subject to funding) and reporting on outcomes. The strategy is intended to complement, not duplicate, SDRC’s economic development and growth strategy work. The Chamber’s role is to promote regional opportunities and refer interested parties to the appropriate agencies, not to provide regulatory or development advice. 	Michelle



Item #	Item name	Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to create a guided framework documenting the portfolio's purpose and processes (e.g. via the Induction Manual) to support continuity for future committees. • Ready Communities will circulate the document to their investor and partner network as part of their ongoing work in the region. <p><u>Item # 2 – CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL/MARKET</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early planning for Christmas activities following last year's commitment to engage main-street traders earlier. Concerns were raised about Chamber's capacity and whether a Christmas event is appropriately Chamber-led, given last year's workload and limited trader engagement. • Any Chamber involvement should focus on initiatives that bring visitors to town and increases local spend. • Options canvassed included a broader "Christmas festival" model, possible use of the Showgrounds, and partnering with existing groups (e.g. Markets in the Mountains, Rotary, Lions). Could possibly market as a "Buy from the Bush" campaign – seek support from Angie Sims. • It was agreed that stronger ownership is required from street traders and other stakeholders, with scope for a dedicated working group comprising interested businesses and community groups, noting Nicci cannot lead this work until after the Business Excellence Awards. • Michelle and Belinda to plan discussions with key groups. 	
9.	<p>Close meeting-</p> <p>Next meeting: 13th May 2026 – 5.30pm Apple & Grape Festival Office</p>	Samara