

QUEANBEYAN AGE COLUMN 29 FEBRUARY 2008

Bill Baker takes over as QBC President: Queanbeyan Business Council Incorporated has a new President and Executive Committee following its Annual General Meeting held at Queanbeyan Golf Club on Tuesday, 26 February.

Bill Baker, Partner at Baker Deane & Nutt, solicitors, has succeeded Ian McNamee who stood down as President under the Association's rules that limit the tenure of President to two terms. Mr. McNamee, as Immediate Past President, will continue to serve on the Executive Committee and as Chair of QBC's Development Industrial Sub-Committee.

Mr. Baker was elected unopposed as President, having served as one of three Vice-Presidents since the inception of QBC in January 2005. In accepting the nomination, he paid tribute to former President McNamee for the "huge momentum" he had generated in driving QBC to its present position in such a short time period.

"This has been achieved through enthusiasm, dedication and doggedness with scant regard to his own well-being and business interests", Mr. Baker told members and guests who attended the AGM.

AGM attendees, who included Cr. Tim Overall and QCC's Economic Development Officer Margaret Nicholls as observers, heard that the Association completed its year in a sound financial position and with a positive future. Mr. McNamee paid tribute to Joint Patrons during 2007 Hon. Gary Nairn, Mr. Steve Whan MP and Hon. Dr. Mike Kelly AM MP and also to the cooperation provided by Queanbeyan City Council.

Whilst many of the issues that faced Queanbeyan on QBC's inception are still with us (such as roads, CBD master plan and guaranteed water supply), the organisation had been successful in raising them at important forums in Queanbeyan, Canberra and NSW. QBC will continue to pursue the development of an integrated regional road strategy to address shared problems between Queanbeyan and ACT.

Other issues facing the new Executive include a business approach to Canberra International Airport's proposed international freight hub, CBD parking (including visitor parking) and the future of Queanbeyan Showground.

QBC strongly supports the incorporation of a proposed Interim Queanbeyan Development Board, a joint QCC, QBC and BEC initiative, to co-ordinate future promotion of the City and to drive issues such as water and roads. Bill Baker, Ian McNamee and Vice-President Jeremy Wyatt (Queanbeyan Leagues Club) were nominated QBC representatives to the Interim Board.

Rod Studholme (Karabar Shopping Mall), and Craig Harris (Canberra Investment Corporation) were also elected QBC Vice Presidents, whilst

Graham Wise (Queanbeyan Golf Club) and Simon Mitchell-Taverner were re-elected Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

The President's Report to the AGM can be obtained from the Secretary at QBC's offices in the Visitor Information Centre (phone 6299 7152) or as a PDF file from <http://www.queanbeyanbusinesscouncil.com.au/media.html>.

Trade Scholarship Program: As mentioned in this column previously, QBC is offering Trade Scholarships to two students each at Queanbeyan High School's new Trade School and CIT's Tourism and Hotel Management Centre. Students will be selected from a short list to be provided by the two schools.

Following structural changes, CIT's contact is now the Director of the Centre Mr. Stuart Walsh or Ms. Fiona Mitchell who can be contacted on 6207-3542. Contact for Queanbeyan High is School Principal Mr. John Clark.