



**MACKAY REGION**  
Chamber of Commerce

# The voice of Mackay's business community

**Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce**



**2017 Capability Statement**



# PURPOSE

Our promise to every business in the Mackay region

We are the voice of Mackay's business community.

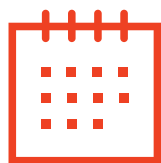
The Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce was established in 1887 as an advocate for local businesses.

Today, we represent over 10,000 organisations across every industry in our region. From the one-man band to national businesses with premises in the region, Chamber provides support across three key pillars.



## Advocacy

The Mackay region has a proven track record in significantly contributing to the state's economy, with a wealth of resources available for future growth and development. By advocating for key projects and funding, Chamber is actively working alongside strategic partners to provide further economic benefit for the region's businesses – and the community as a whole.



## Events

Chamber is known for consistently producing high calibre networking and professional development opportunities. Our events are designed to assist in creating meaningful connections and furthering business skills. The majority of our events are inclusive – open to all members of the business community, with special benefits and some events exclusively held for members.



## Membership

As a member-based, not-for-profit organisation, Chamber is directed by the needs of our members. While we advocate for all businesses in the region, our members are the key focus when deciding where Chamber resources are best used. As well as access to exclusive benefits, Chamber membership demonstrates public support for Mackay's business and local communities.

10,000+



Represent 10,000+ Mackay region businesses

150+



Host networking events attracting up to 150+ attendees

1500+



Connecting with 1500+ Mackay professionals weekly



# COMMITTEE

## The volunteer team of Mackay business leaders on board for 2017

Every year, a committee of nine local professionals are elected by members to steer Chamber activities for the next 12 months. They are supported by two Chamber staff and a range of local suppliers.



**Heather Woods,**  
Zoetic – President

Heather established her business in 2009, is a multi-award winner and understands the commitment and resilience required to successfully grow a business. Being a Mackay local, Heather is passionate about our community and her dedication to Chamber is based on her love of business and helping others succeed.



**Dave Whitson,**  
Whitson Dawson –  
Vice President

Dave has operated a large accounting practice in Mackay for the last 10 years, having worked in the industry for seven years prior. Being a fourth-generation local businessman, previous CPA Australia Mackay Branch chairman and Port of Mackay Rotary Club member, he contributes a wealth of business and finance skills.



**Victoria Gracie,**  
Opteon Property  
Group – Treasurer

A shareholder and director of Opteon Central Queensland, Victoria is an active member of the Mackay property industry. With a number of achievements already under her belt, including winning Opteon's National Emerging Leader in 2015, Victoria is a strong supporter of the Mackay business community.



**Kathy Farren-Price,**  
BB Print – Secretary

After 30+ years in the printing industry, Kathy is highly experienced in what it takes to build a resilient organisation. With a multi-award winning workforce, her business acumen is highly regarded. After four years on the Chamber committee, Kathy continues to pledge her support in the spirit of giving back to the community.



**Melissa Green,**  
BOQ Mackay City

Melissa's 20+ years in the finance sector, with 10 years also as a business owner and director, have helped her to develop excellent communication skills and business insight. Her involvement with Chamber is based on a desire to help the community and local businesses to be successful.



**Joshua Houlahan,**  
ANZ

As the leader of ANZ Mackay's commercial/agribusiness team and with 10 years' experience in the financial industry, Josh is dedicated to ensuring that local businesses are well prepared for the continual changes that occur in the marketplace. Being on the Chamber committee allows Josh to further achieve this aim.



**Angela Hurley,**  
McKays Solicitors

Angela has worked within the legal profession for 15 years, and her family have had strong business ties to the Mackay region for more than 130 years. Along with her Chamber appointment, Angela sits on the Mackay District Law Association management committee and on a number of educational committees and boards.



**Peter Jones-Trifelly,**  
Frangipani  
Enterprises Pty Ltd

Peter has held a lifelong interest and passion in business, having been first schooled by his father, who operated and developed two successful Mackay businesses. Commencing with Chamber in 2012, Peter has worked across a diverse range of industries – bringing with him a vast knowledge of the challenges local businesses face.



**Jade McAuley,**  
Rebel Marketing

With more than a decade in the marketing industry, Jade has been responsible for the development and implementation of marketing, digital media, PR and communications campaigns for some of the region's largest organisations, and brings those collaboration and marketing skills to the Chamber committee.





# ADVOCACY

What we're supporting in 2017 to improve the Mackay region economy

Chamber represents the interests of the Mackay business community across all levels of government, proactively engaging with strategic partners to ensure that our region is a key contender for projects and funding.

We invite all members to submit advocacy issues either to a committee member, through our website and/or by attending a members-only advocacy forum. This allows us to form a comprehensive picture of the major issues confronting business owners, to best tailor Chamber's advocacy plan and agenda.

### 2017 Chamber advocacy priorities

Chamber is committed to working collaboratively with other key industry groups to promote projects and priorities that will benefit our region. In partnership with our strategic advocacy partners, we support and are advocating for the following regional priorities:

- Pit to port strategy** > Efficient heavy vehicle connectivity from the ports to the mines is essential for regional and national competitiveness.
- Open up the Galilee Basin** > The region will benefit from direct jobs in the construction of mines and infrastructure, as well as for the life of the mines.
- Tourism-related catalytic development** > Major redevelopment of the public area of Binnington Esplanade at Town Beach and securing a navy dive wreck.
- Regional industry diversification** > The experience and skills offered in our region can easily be applied to other new and emerging markets.
- HQ attraction** > State and Federal Governments to headquarter government agencies in Mackay, and incentivise for large corporates to be based in the region.
- Royalties for regions** > Requesting State Government to allocate total royalties to regional Queensland according to the percentage of total regional GDP.
- Bio-products and bio-fuels** > Secure funding to develop a local strategy to maximise our potential in the biofuels and bio-manufacturing industries.
- Tertiary education** > Continued support for CQUniversity and James Cook University to expand their campuses and course offerings in the Mackay region.
- Cultural and sports development** > Continue to work with our partners to attract investment in cultural, artistic and recreational networks and infrastructure.
- Local property development and investment** > Make Mackay region an attractive business, industry and property investment destination.

Strategic advocacy partners





# EVENTS

Networking and professional development opportunities in 2017

19  
JANUARY

### Mix 'n' Mingle Collaborative Event

With Resource Industry Network and special guest speaker Muthuraj Guruswamy, GM of Corporate Affairs at Adani.

15-19  
MAY

### Small Business Week

With a calendar of corporate events lined up.

30  
JUNE

### EOFY Charity Luncheon

Celebrate the end of the financial year with Chamber.

20  
JULY

### Mix 'n' Mingle Collaborative Event

With Rocket Network and YP Mackay.

17  
AUGUST

### Mix 'n' Mingle Collaborative Event

With Mackay Tourism and special guest speaker Rob Porter of Mackay Airport.

24  
FEBRUARY

### Bigger Better Stronger Take the Lead

Our annual growth conference, Bigger Better Stronger this year will focus on leadership in three key areas – culture, strategy and communication.



### RUOK? Golf Day

A day out on the green to raise funds and promote awareness about mental health issues.

15  
SEPTEMBER

13  
OCTOBER

### Annual General Meeting

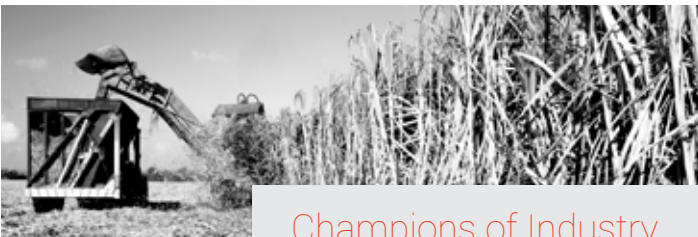
Our AGM for 2017 will be a Champions of Industry event, featuring panellists who will offer insights into the Mackay region's agricultural, ports, government, resources and economic development sectors.



### Mix 'n' Mingle Networking Event

Update on the 2017 NUDE Lunch, in aid of ovarian cancer.

16  
MARCH



### Champions of Industry

Our panel of industry champions will cover sugar, government, health, education, retail and tourism for an in-depth discussion on how each of these sectors are performing, and plans for the future.

21  
APRIL

NOVEMBER

### #buymackay Mix 'n' Mingle

A chance for members to discuss tendering opportunities directly with a variety of government agencies and large-scale enterprises.



14  
DECEMBER

### Chamber Christmas Party

A members only event to celebrate the end of another successful year.



# MEMBERSHIP

Chamber member benefits, and how to make the most of them



A robust Chamber ensures that issues affecting the region's businesses are being heard, and that we have the ability to bring high value networking and professional development events direct to Mackay.

“

The more we join together, the stronger we are as a whole – and the more we can all achieve.”



## Reasons to join Chamber

**Be heard** > Chamber advocates on behalf of members, taking their issues and priorities direct to the relevant government agencies as well as the media to continually work towards providing real outcomes to benefit our region.

**Be seen** > Marketing resources available to members include a listing in our online member directory, promotion through our email newsletters and Facebook page and the opportunity to raise the profile of your business when attending our events.

**Support our region** > By being part of Chamber, you are connecting your business with an organisation whose goal is improving our region and advocating for issues that are relevant to the community, both socially and economically.

**Stay informed** > Chamber are often the first point of contact for business-related events and opportunities – both locally and outside the region. Connecting with Chamber ensures your business is kept informed on the latest news, events and initiatives.

**Create connections** > Building relationships is essential to any successful business operation. Chamber gives members a platform to genuinely connect and grow relationships with potential and current clients, suppliers and collaborators.

**Save on professional development** > As well as discounted pricing on events, membership assists Chamber in hosting events that offer high quality speakers and content – saving your business on capital city professional development expenses.

**VIP access** > Members only events, such as our Christmas party and advocacy forums, offer exclusive access to meet with like-minded professionals as well as make direct contact with government representatives and the decision makers in larger enterprises.

**Gain CPD points** > Many Chamber events are eligible for professional services to apply for CPD points to their relevant industry body.

## Chamber membership fee structure

Associate/Not for Profit:	\$170.50 (incl GST)
Level 1 (1-9 staff):	\$313.50 (incl GST)
Level 2 (10-49 staff):	\$456.50 (incl GST)
Level 3 (50+ staff):	\$649.00 (incl GST)

*Payment options include one annual payment or a monthly direct debit facility.*

To join Chamber, download a membership form from our website at [www.mackayregionchamber.com.au](http://www.mackayregionchamber.com.au) and send the completed form to [admin@mackayregionchamber.com.au](mailto:admin@mackayregionchamber.com.au).



# HIGHLIGHTS

A snapshot of just a few Chamber achievements over the past five years

2012



Secured  
**\$100,000**

from the Federal Government to deliver professional development events and programs across the region



Hosted visit from then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

2013

**RUOK?**  
A conversation could change a life.

Instrumental in bringing the RUOK message to Mackay region businesses

Launched Champions of Industry – a signature event that allows all businesses to hear from key Mackay industry representatives



2014



Hosted visit from then Federal Treasurer Joe Hockey

2015



Invited to represent the region's businesses at visit from then Prime Minister Tony Abbott



Launched annual business growth conference – Bigger Better Stronger

2016



Invited to represent the region's businesses at visit from Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull



Greater Whitsunday Alliance launched, which Chamber has been a strong advocate for



Launched successful support local campaign – #buymackay



With the generous support of our sponsors, Mackay Regional Council, Hail Creek Development Fund (Rio Tinto) and the Local Buying Foundation, Chamber have brought a number of renowned speakers to the Mackay region.

A sample of these include:

- Dame Quentin Bryce
- Adventurers James Castrission and Justin Jones
- Entrepreneur and author, Jack Delosa
- International rugby union great, John Eales
- First series winner of The Apprentice, Andrew Morello
- Former Chief of the Australian Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison
- Body language guru, Allan Pease
- Youth leader, Holly Ransom
- Red Balloon founder and Shark Tank judge, Naomi Simson



#buymackay is a Chamber initiative to encourage all businesses to think locally whenever possible for financial decisions.

If every local Mackay business swapped just **\$5** per day in business expenses to a fellow local business, we can potentially generate an extra **\$10 million** plus a year in local economic activity.

That \$10 million means more local jobs and more money being spent in your business every day!





## Contact

Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce  
ABN 22 698 266 861

☎ 07 4953 1603

✉ [admin@mackayregionchamber.com.au](mailto:admin@mackayregionchamber.com.au)

🌐 [www.mackayregionchamber.com.au](http://www.mackayregionchamber.com.au)

🏠 6a Lawson Street, Mackay QLD 4740 (MRAEL building)

📍 PO Box 1013, Mackay QLD 4740



## Sponsors

**Our achievements are due in large part to the support of our corporate sponsors.**

Chamber sponsors offer a financial or in-kind contribution that substantially assists in enabling us to deliver support to the Mackay business community, and aid in the region's economic performance. We highly value our sponsors not just for what they provide to Chamber, but for their commitment to the prosperity of the Mackay region.



For 2018 sponsorship enquiries, please contact our support staff at [admin@mackayregionchamber.com.au](mailto:admin@mackayregionchamber.com.au).

