



President's Report – May 2020

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to our Redlands Coast - OPEN for Business Facebook Group. It's important that we remember the strategy our government has put in place is more like a marathon than a sprint, and the more we can encourage each other the better.

I especially love reading of those businesses who are helping the more vulnerable in our community, providing meals or putting together packs of essentials. If you have an elderly neighbour or family member, why not check in with them and make sure they are okay. A phone call or shout out over the fence may just be the only human contact they have all day.

It's also encouraging to see how some businesses are adapting to the current conditions and working in new ways or offering new services. I read somewhere that we are not hibernating our economy but putting it into a coma. This makes sense to me because when animals hibernate, they know winter is coming and prepare. No-one saw this coming and we had no time to prepare. Coming out of a coma, no-one knows what condition we will be in.

At the beginning of the year we started forming a Regional Jobs Committee for Redlands. The focus of the committee was on jobs creation, identifying the gaps that prevent business growth and jobs growth in Redlands. We have petitioned the State Government to allow us to expand our focus and we will now include business recovery, and jobs recovery. The question we are asking is "How can we use this time and the funding to position the people and businesses of Redlands to be ready when we need to come out of this coma?" Anyone who would like to contribute to this discussion, please get in touch. I would love to hear from you.

We have held our most recent business survey open as we want to make sure the information we provide Council is as relevant and useful as possible. Our first survey attracted more than 300 respondents, but this time around, we have had just over 110. I know we are all feeling weary and maybe also jaded, and many of us are being inundated now with survey requests, but this one is really important for the Redlands business community because it will inform Council's response.

Some businesses are better represented than others. I would especially like to encourage anyone who operates a business in IT, Media and Telecommunications, Financial and Insurance Services, Wholesale Trade, Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services or Agriculture to step up to the plate and respond. There's a link a bit further down in this newsletter, or also on the home page of our website: www.redlandscoastchamber.org.au

Yours in business

Rebecca Young