

**THE HEART.
THE SOUL.**



THE CENTRE.

Accommodation, Retail & Attraction Sector Meeting Monday 23 February 2009

Meeting Commenced 3:04 pm

ATTENDANCE: Brian Dinte (Desert Rose Inn), Frank & Tish Asling (Alice Springs Airport Motel), Lynne Peterkin (National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame), Karen Lock (Alice Springs Convention Centre), Helen Joraslafsky (National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame), Tracey Hall (Absolute Media), Bryce Ponsford (Vatu Sanctuary), John Stafford (Tourism NT), Gary Fry (Alice Springs Desert Park), Cate Povey (Chamber of Commerce)

APOLOGIES: Marie Cope (Alice on Todd), Amanda Schaefer (Crowne Plaza), Rex Neindorf (Alice Springs Reptile Centre), Kathy Fritz (Kathy's Place), Anne Cormack (Nthabe B&B), Rob Gane (Australian Tourist Publications), Kay Eade (Chamber of Commerce), Phil Walcott (Rainbow Connections), Scott Grant (All Seasons Oasis) Brendan Heenan (MacDonnell Range Caravan Park), Marcus Williams (Pyndan Camel Treks), Grant Whan (RFDS), Claire Ashard (Alice Springs Desert Park), Corena Lucas (School of the Air), Samantha Langord (Sounds of Starlight), Kate Schilling (Territory Discoveries), Carmel Chalmers (Gemtree), Kate Freestone (Alice Plaza), Jeanette Coffey (Heritage Alice Springs)

CHAIRPERSON: Peter Grigg (Tourism CA)

MINUTES: Merrilyn McIver (Tourism CA)

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the meeting was called at the request of two people unfortunately not in attendance. At the last meeting it was agreed future meetings would be called as determined.

He explained TCA only facilitate the meeting but the members run the meeting and are to determine how often they wish these meetings to run and who to chair such meetings.

ACTION: To bring this matter as an item to the General Meeting later this week.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1) Peter mentioned that the "Anti-Discrimination" draft policy was made available to members for comment. The Policy is now with the Anti Discrimination Commission for vetting. There Aretepe Aboriginal Corporation has been contacted regarding expected behaviour in town.
- 2) Lynne Peterkin raised the matter of previous agreement for Restaurants being included in this meeting. Any future meetings are to encompass "Accommodation, Retail, Attractions and Restaurants"

- 3) Karen Lock gave a run down on recent attendance at AIME in Melbourne. Busy quality show. Felt it was better than last year for ASCC. Conference market opportunities for all in Alice Springs Tourism. 14 AIME delegates here on a family for next couple of days.
- 4) Brian Dinte expressed concern regarding number of non paying guests and their smarter working of the system to not pay. Appears there are rules and regulations for the hoteliers but not for the guests. Problem seems to be increasing.
ACTION: Smaller accommodation houses to investigate with larger accommodation houses on their procedures to assist in alleviating this problem.
- 5) Tracey Hall is co-ordinating dining menu guide to be placed in all accommodation houses. Giving an example of the style and price range for guests information. Covering Yulara, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Should be ready in a couple of months
- 6) Bryce Ponsford gave a description of the Vatu Sanctuary and The Homestead facilities for member's information.
- 7) Lynne Peterkin advised the NWPFOF received an unexpected gift of corporate sponsorship of \$10,000 which will be used for website upgrade. They had the Solar City people around to give assistance in saving power, unfortunately the suggestion of solar panels cannot be used as a Heritage building. Goal side and women's exhibits are improving slowly. Need more volunteers and their numbers are diminishing.
Negotiating future events with various options in the pipeline.
Receiving assistance from new goal inmates with labour work
RFDS, Reptile Centre and Pioneer Women's have partnered up advertising the three attractions in that area.
- 8) John Stafford advised of the Ecotourism Australia accreditation program. Future Government marketing assistance will require organisations to be accredited after June 2010. Accreditation is under the TAAL umbrella.
Brian queried the necessity to double up on paperwork for accreditation for certain standards. Discussion took place on pros/cons of reasons.
John advised it was like a business plane to learn from the experience.
Peter advised TCA will support ALL members but looking at incentives for members to become accredited.
- 9) Gary Fry presented statistics on the Desert Park – not much change.
ASDP and ASCC are attending the Australian Tourism Awards on Friday night.
- 10) Cate Povey advised of her new role with Chamber of Commerce and her continuing commitment to membership.

Meeting Closed: 4:10 pm

NEXT MEETING:

To be advised