

## **Lake Eucumbene Chamber of Commerce President's Report for the Annual General Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

Activities of the chamber over the past twelve months have been restricted by the small number of active members on the committee. The plan was that it would be a caretaker committee with a view to involving businesses in taking the responsibility of the Lake Eucumbene Chamber of Commerce.

Projects involving the chamber in 2009 -2010 include the Old Adaminaby boat ramp, the safety surveillance of Lake Eucumbene, the Adaminaby strategic plan, the restoration of the Big Trout, the community hall upgrade, area beautification and the museum.

Strategies to stimulate membership of the chamber have included personal approaches to businesses, hosting of three public meetings held at the Snowgoose, regular communication by electronic distribution of information that comes to the chamber, regular committee meetings to maximise efficiency and minimise member inconvenience and the creation and circulation of a newsletter.

Membership renewal reminders were delayed until last spring to allow businesses some recovery because of the feedback we received that businesses have been suffering hardship through the economic downturn. When renewal reminders were sent out in November 2009 many memberships were two years late and there was still a poor response.

Businesses have not become more involved or even joined as members as we hoped that they would after the June 09 public meeting. It is still run by a few tired community non-business members who feel that they shouldn't be managing a Chamber of Commerce. Feedback has been that many businesses don't want to be involved with the Chamber because it is run by non-business people.

We could replace it with another entity that is more generally community focused but with similar powers to attract funding etc. It needs research but if it can be reborn under another name and aim then it should still serve business as a stronger community will, but at least it will be authentic with members who identify with its purpose.

One main purpose would be to set up as a central hub for community projects run by individuals/committees with interests in particular areas. We did this last Monday when we heard all about many things in progress in the area led by those who have taken the jobs on through their interest in them.

Thank you,

Jane Reid