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Welcome to this month's newsletter

Thank you for all of the positive feedback we received from the launch of the newsletter last month. With so many programs being offered by various organisations wanting to help local businesses, we are endeavouring to give you a snapshot of what's available and relevant to our local business community.

This month's edition includes:

- From Mayor Calvert's desk
- Sign up to Hawkesbury Business Hub join today!
- Congratulations to Kurrajong Kitchen Lavosh
- Small Business Mentoring with Western Sydney Advisory
- Business Bounce Back Mentoring Program
- Financial Assistance is still available for bushfire relief
- Rebuilding post-bushfires support from Bizrebuild
- Free Business Energy advice
- NBN tips for getting the most out of your internet
- Government COVID-19 support information
- Support from Western Sydney Business Centre

We are always keen to build our knowledge and understanding of what Hawkesbury businesses need. Please share this newsletter with other local businesses, become a member of the Hawkesbury Business Hub and please tell us what you think by contacting Amanda Kearney on 4560 4437 or 0418 296 579 or email Amanda.Kearney@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

From the Mayor Calvert's desk

I am proud that as the Mayor that

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during these difficult times. The Hawkesbury is home to a supportive business sector that takes care of its community members.



I believe that it's Council's role to provide the information, tools and right advice to enable businesses to continue to contribute to our local economy

As we emerge from lockdown and businesses are allowed to gradually reopen, I'd like to congratulate all of you who have seen through this difficult period to once again open your doors to your customers. I look forward to visiting you over the coming weeks and months.

I'd encourage all local businesses to register on the Hawkesbury Business Hub, and to extend a personal congratulations to the team at Kurrajong Kitchen for their most recent success on receiving the grant for the Modernisation Fund.



<u>Hawkesbury Business Hub is live -</u> <u>have you joined?</u>

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Business Directory. Hawkesbury City Council encourages you to drop a pin in the location of your local business and tell us all about your business, your history, what you offer, your business hours and any current special offers.

We will be regularly promoting the local businesses who register on our Directory Map through our Facebook page.

- Follow this link to our <u>Business Hub Directory Map</u>
- See what our Business Hub has to offer here
- If you would like assistance with setting up your business in our directory, call our Customer Service Team on 4560 4444.



<u>Kurrajong Kitchen Lavosh -</u> <u>Business Hub Member Success</u>

Karen Lebsanft, CEO of Kurrajong Kitchen Lavosh and Hawkesbury Business Hub member reflects on recently being awarded a Modernisation Fund Grant:

"We at <u>Kurrajong Kitchen Lavosh</u> have been blessed to receive a grant as part of the Modernisation Fund which keeps manufacturing on shore.

The process to achieve this took weeks and our internal team's dedication to ensuring as a team we came together bringing our research knowledge and skill set. Without this grant the project would have been delayed two years. A

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We are so proud that we are able to continue as an Australian manufacturer proudly Australian owned supporting Aussie wheat farmers."



Small Business Mentoring with Western Sydney Advisory

Do you run a small business in the Hawkesbury City Council Local Government Area?

Expressions of interest are open for the <u>Western Sydney Advisory Group Small Business Mentoring Program</u>. This two month program has been developed to encourage and assist local small business owners who want to grow and strengthen their business. This is also the perfect opportunity for those wanting to start their own business.

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businesses. This two month online program includes:

- Five experienced mentors
- Six one hour group webinars covering the all-important areas of business strategy, marketing, social media, public relations, sales and finance
- Weekly group mentoring sessions via Zoom
- Private Facebook group dedicated to the program to encourage discussions, questions and connections with each other.
- Mentors will also be available to answer questions in their area of expertise

This program is fully subsidised by the Hawkesbury City Council. There is no cost to the business owners.

Criteria:

- Your business must be based in the Hawkesbury City Council LGA.
- Commitment to two hours a week to the program.
- If you are interested in being a part of our two month mentoring program please submit an expression of interest form.
- Successful small business owners will be notified by Friday 5th June 2020.

Business Bounce Back Mentoring Program

A new Business Bounce Back Mentoring Program especially for Hawkesbury tourism businesses has just been launched by Hawkesbury City Council as part of its broader business recovery program.

The Mayor of Hawkesbury is pleased to announce the launch of the tailored mentoring program, which is specifically designed to help registered tourism businesses in the area.

"The mentoring program works one on one with businesses that have been affected by recent events of bushfires, floods and COVID-19," Mayor Calvert said.

"The aim of the program is to get them back on track with the business tools to withstand crises in future."

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"The response to the initial pilot program has been so encouraging that we are excited to announce that Council's program will now to roll out further, which means 30 tourism businesses will have the opportunity to participate," he said.

Ruth and Brian Schembri from Blueberry Hills Cottages on Comleroy, a multi award winning boutique farm stay and blueberry picking experience (seasonal) in Kurrajong, have signed up for the new tourism mentoring program. The Mayor visited them recently to talk about the significant impact that the bushfires and COVID-19 have had on their business in the last six months and how the mentoring program will assist them.

To find out more and to join the program, please email City Design and Economic Development Manager Amanda Kearney via business@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or call 4560 4444.



Red Cross Bushfire Recovery Grants

Was your business affected by the recent bushfires? Do you need help navigating the available grants? <u>Step by Step - Disaster Recovery Support</u>

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Call them on 0417 298 832 for further information.

Detailed information about the grants and eligibility can be found <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

St Albans, Bilpin & Colo -Free Business Information and Advice

The BizRebuild team will be available for one-on-one sessions with businesses in our bushfire affected areas of <u>St Albans, Bilpin and Colo</u>, with a specific focus on providing businesses:

- Information on and assistance with navigating the available COVID-19 and bushfire related financial support for NSW businesses, such as state and federal government administered grants, loans and other available financial assistance
- One-on-one assistance with completing application forms for COVID-19 and bushfire related financial support applicable to NSW businesses
- More general business related information and, where possible, putting businesses in touch directly with external business specialists through our network of business community members after sessions
- A dedicated mental health and trauma expert for private and confidential counselling and support

St Albans on Wednesday 10th June
Bilpin on Thursday 11th June
Colo on Friday 12th June

To make a booking please call 1800 497 121 or click here to find out more.

BizRebuild is a business-led initiative, backed by the Business Council to provide practical and on the ground assistance to local businesses left devastated by the bushfires. www.bizrebuild.com.au

Visit www.bizrebuild.com.au for information



REBUILDING FOR A STRONGER AUSTRALIA

Free Energy Advice for Business

your energy costs soaring?

We know energy costs are impacting businesses — which is why we have partnered with our friends Business Australia, who are delivering the **Business Energy Advice Program (beap)**, a <u>FREE Australian Government initiative!</u>

<u>Beap</u> will audit your energy consumption, suggest potential energy-saving opportunities and give you access to helpful information on sustainability and how to access government grants.

Free, independent energy advice tailored to your business

How? You will undergo a one-to-one consultation with a business expert. They understand the specific energy needs of your industry and can advise on potential energy-saving opportunities.

Who? Available to small businesses with between 6-20 employees and drought-affected business employing 0-5 across Australia.

2-ways you can get started on your path to more energy savings:

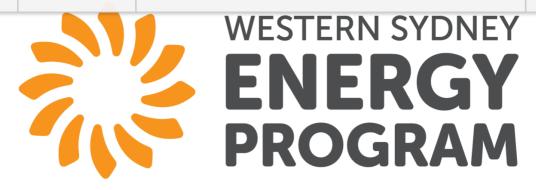
- 1. Register online; OR
- 2. Call 1300 415 224

In business, every dollar counts. Don't miss this free opportunity to make a positive change to your bottom line and join the thousands of other businesses who have already benefited.



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Get the most out of your internet

NBN offers simple tips on how to get the most out of your internet - at home or in the office. Click through to the following link to learn how to optimise your WiFi and internet experience.

https://www.nbnco.com.au/learn/optimisation

Government assistance during COVID-19

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most challenging time for our economy and community as a whole. Following is a series of links to key government advice and assistance packages that may apply to your circumstances. We encourage you to apply where relevant.



Federal Government:

Boosting cashflow for SMEs
Employers with apprentices and trainees
Workplace Health & Safety and Covid-19
Jobkeeper payments



State Government:

Grants and loans

Help for small business

Financial assistance for business and employers

WSBC free online training

Western Sydney Business Centre is offering a series of free webinars to help businesses acquire and refine essential skills. Click <u>here</u> to learn more.









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