

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

BUSINESS
PORT MACQUARIE

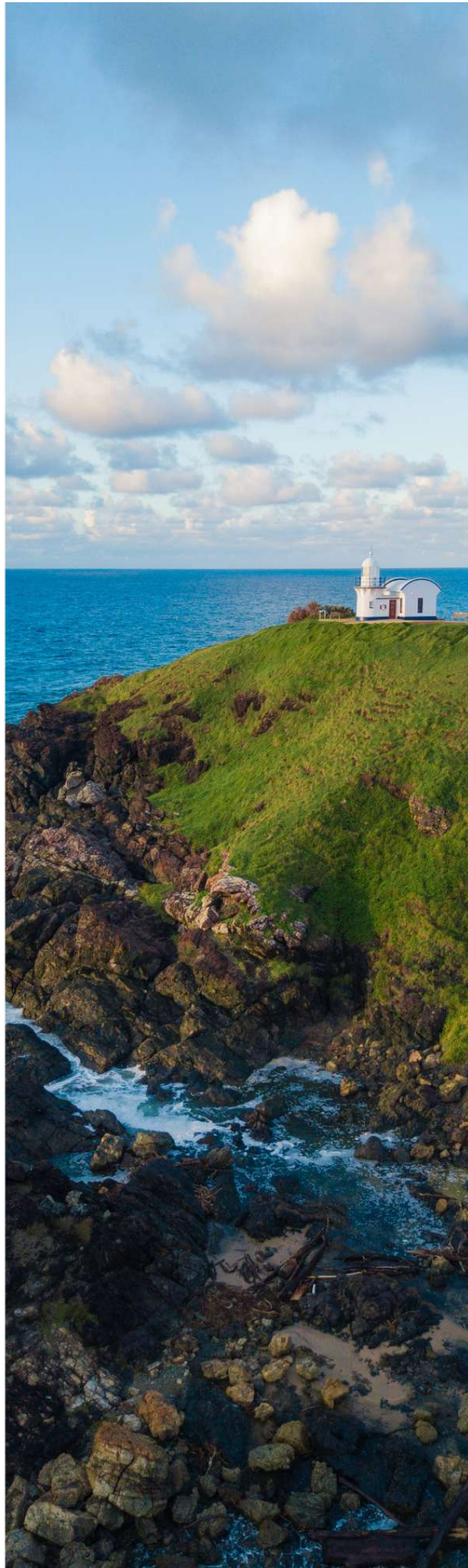


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President's Report

President's Report 2025

Before diving into the year ahead, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank Alex Glen-Holmes for her dedicated service as President of Business Port Macquarie. Alex and her leadership helped steer the chamber through a period of renewed community engagement. Her passion for local business and tireless advocacy left a meaningful imprint on our organisation, and we're grateful for the time, energy, and heart she invested during her tenure.

Alex stepped down from the role in June 2025, and I had the privilege of stepping into the presidency during that same month—coincidentally, the final month of the financial year. It's been an energising start, and I'm excited to build on the strong foundations Alex helped shape as we look toward the future.

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present the President's Report for the 2024/25 financial year. This year has been one of growth, resilience, and renewed momentum for Business Port Macquarie as we continue to champion the interests of our vibrant local business community.

Advocacy and Representation

Advocacy remains central to our mission. We've actively represented member interests across key issues including the Oxley Highway upgrade to improve access to the Health and Education Precinct, Port Macquarie Breakwall repairs, and disaster relief coordination. Our quarterly meetings with Mayor Adam Roberts, Acting CEO Robert Fish, Federal Member Pat Conaghan, and State Member Robert Dwyer have ensured that the voice of local business is heard at every level of government.

We also proudly working with council initiatives that reinforces our commitment to both infrastructure and cultural development.

Events and Engagement

Our calendar of events has never been stronger. From Coffee Connections to Boardroom Lunches, each gathering has been designed to foster connection, share strategic insights, and celebrate local success. Highlights included the Economic Update with Sherman Chan, the Business Awards Gala, and our charity Golf Day supporting the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

These events build the relationships that power our business ecosystem.

Membership and Growth

As of June 2025, our membership stands at 230 businesses. This steady growth reflects the value our chamber delivers — from networking and professional development to advocacy and exposure. The Chamber Alliance with Business NSW continues to amplify our reach and impact, offering members broader opportunities for engagement and support.

Celebrating Local Business

The 2025 Coastline Bank Greater Port Macquarie Business Awards Gala was a standout success, with over 410 attendees celebrating excellence across industries. Congratulations to all category winners and especially to Brows by Willow, our 2025 Business of the Year.

These awards are more than a celebration — they're a powerful platform for recognition, reflection, and growth.

Financial Overview

Our financial position remains stable. Memberships and the Business Awards continue to be our primary income sources, with special events contributing to our bottom line. Treasurer David Relf will provide further detail in his report.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next chapter, Business Port Macquarie is focused on deepening relationships, expanding member value, and driving regional prosperity. We will continue to advocate, connect, and celebrate — ensuring that local business remains the backbone of our community.

Thank you to our dedicated Board, staff, sponsors, and members. Your passion and participation make everything we do possible.

Thank you.



Peter Jones

17 October 2025

Overview

This Annual Report summarises Business Port Macquarie's activities and achievements during the past year.

Thank you to all our members, sponsors and supporters. Your positive engagement is key to our ability to support a vibrant and positive business community and environment.

Advocacy remains at the forefront of our activities; relationships with governments and key stakeholders remain strong.

Memberships and the annual business awards continue to provide the two main income sources. Our regular networking events generally break even while our special events such as Boardroom Lunches and the Golf Day are returning reasonable profits.

The Chamber Alliance with Business NSW continues to add value to our membership, with more opportunities for Members to involve themselves through networking and contact opportunities.

Support for local causes is at the forefront of our activities.

Membership

We have 230 members as at the end of June 2025.

Business Port Macquarie Team

BPMQ Board members working for you during 2023/2024 year:

- Alex Glen-Holmes – (President) - Licensed Sales Agent, Holmes 4 U
- Linda Elbourne – (Vice President) - Services & Marketing Manager, Willing and Able
- Jenny Fraser – (Secretary) - Chief Executive Officer, Mid Coast Connect
- David Relf – (Treasurer) - Business Manager, NIS Power & Communications
- Peter Jones – Proprietor, Harvey Norman Computers, Mobile Phones & Technology
- Kellon Beard – Special Projects Manager, Business NSW
- Stuart Goodfellow – Director, Regional Business Specialists
- Angela Frimberger – Veterinary Oncologist and Owner, Façade Escape Rooms
- Claire Mathews – Territory Manager, Colourworks
- Justin Levido – Lawyer, Levido Law & Property
- Michelle Love – Project Manager – Love Project Management
- Kate Wood-Foye – Director, External Engagement – CSU



Alex Glen-Holmes



Linda Elbourne



Jenny Fraser



David Relf



Peter Jones



Kellon Beard



Stuart Goodfellow



Angela Frimberger



Kieren Dell



Claire Mathews



Justin Levido



Michelle Love



Kate Wood-Foye

Staff & Contractors

The BPMQ team:

- Malcolm Neale – Executive Officer
- Kylie Morris – Executive Officer Assistant



Malcolm Neale



Kylie Morris

Advocacy

Central to Business Port Macquarie's activity as the premier local business advocate, we pursue issues and opportunities which support a healthy economy and improve the quality of life in our community.

In this regard, Business Port Macquarie has consulted with and represented member views on a broad range of issues, including those detailed below. We also held Board Representation on the Cultural Steering Group.

Business Port Macquarie continues to lobby local, state and federal representatives in respect to the detailed design for upgrades for the Oxley Highway to improve traffic access to the Health and Education Precinct (HEP), including to the Port Macquarie Base Hospital and Charles Sturt University, Port Macquarie Breakwall repairs, disaster relief forum, 2024 North Coast Tourism Symposium, Education Youth and Business.

Submissions and support letters

- September 2024 - Letter of Support for a local artist to obtain PMHC Community Grant
- February 2025 - Letter of Support for the Ocean Pool Committee

Financial Statement

2024/2025 Treasurer's Report

On behalf of Business Port Macquarie, I am pleased to present the Treasurers Report for the financial year 2024/25. With lots of changes and challenges, I must thank the Board for their continued support. A big welcome to our new President Peter Jones. And our new Executive Officer Kylie Morris.

Managing income and expenses in our endeavours to run events, provide relevant information and content, plus provide an effective voice for Business is always a challenge particularly for not-for-profit organisations. Managing the dollars is always an interesting exercise – and again the board has done a fantastic job in mitigating this through the hard work of all.

Our Gross Income this year was \$276,600 a decrease of 31% on last year. This decrease however was attributed to the fact we did run the AICD Company Directors course last year which produced significant income as well as expenses. Expenses for the year was \$292,386. Which gave us a loss of \$15,786 but with retained profits of \$83,802. Other factors that impacted income was lower ticket sales for the Business Awards. Also understanding that our income is very much a cycle of payment timing from our members.

What was great to see was a 16.8% increase membership income, in dollar terms \$11,078. The Business Chambers Premier Event, the Annual Business Awards contributed \$117,448 down 4.85% from last year, with again the Annual Golf Day and other events including Boardroom lunches contributing to our financial position.

Again, our Sponsors contribute a large portion of our income. With sponsored events providing significant income to Business Port Macquarie.

Given the challenges of business, the current economic situation, and several business's closing down and/or moving away, it has been a challenging year for Business Port Macquarie. This is particularly evident in a loss of a number of members over the past twelve months. And whilst it has been great to see so many existing members renew – we have also had a number of new members come on board. The work that has been done by our Executive Officer Kylie Morris in retention and growth of members is an outstanding achievement

I would like to thank our President Peter Jones for his support, the wonderful team of Directors and Kylie Morris for the focus, commitment & drive to engage our Business Community.


David Relf - Treasurer

BUSINESS PORT MACQUARIE

Income Statement	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Revenue	275,279	397,329
Other Revenue	1,321	2,499
	276,600	399,828
Function Direct Expenses	118,959	241,328
Wages & Consultancy Costs	134,396	148,546
Other Expenses	39,031	30,827
	292,386	420,701
Profit (loss) for the year	- 15,786 -	20,873
Balance Sheet		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	116,833	106,879
Trade and other receivables	4,225	17,490
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	121,058	124,369
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Intangible Assets	12,000	20,000
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	12,000	20,000
TOTAL ASSETS	133,058	144,369
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other liabilities	36,582	37,211
Provisions	12,674	3,570
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	49,256	40,781
TOTAL LIABILITIES	49,256	40,781
NET ASSETS	83,802	103,588
EQUITY		
Retained Profits	99,588	124,461
TOTAL EQUITY	83,802	103,588

A key element of our engagement with members is our regular events. Each gathering has focused on providing information for members on matters of strategic interest to local business (see topics listed below).

Business Port Macquarie events

- 23 July 2024 – Healthy Wealthy Wise Networking Event
- 21 August 2024 – SES Live Demonstration Networking Event
- 19 September 2024 - Attracting Amazing Success with John McGrath
- 17 October 2024 - Lock Down your Cyber Security
- 1 November 2024 – OIB Sponsored Westpac Rescue Helicopter Golf Day
- 19 November 2024 - Path to Prosperity Networking Event
- 6 December 2024 – Combined Christmas Party
- 31 December 2024 – New Years Eve Fireworks
- 21 January 2025 - The Perfect Business Blend Networking Event
- 5 February 2025 - Coffee Connections
- 11 February 2025 - 2025 Coastline Bank Greater Port Macquarie Business Awards Launch
- 25 February 2025 - An Evening with Council Leadership Event
- 19 March 2025 - Boardroom Lunch with AICD Chief Economist Mark Thirlwell
- 2 April 2025 - Coffee Connections at Lunico Candle Co (Member host)
- 9 April 2025 - 2025 Coastline Bank Greater Port Macquarie Business Awards VIP Event
- 7 May 2025 - Coffee Connections at Hello Koalas (Member host)
- 17 May 2025 - 2025 Coastline Bank Greater Port Macquarie Business Awards Gala Event
- 4 June 2025 - Coffee Connections at The Witchy Nook (Member host)
- 12 June 2025 – Economic Update with Sherman Chan (Partnership event with BNSW)

Celebrating local business

Each year, Business Port Macquarie encourages the celebration of local business by hosting the Coastline Bank Greater Port Macquarie Business Awards. The Business Awards income makes up a large percentage of BPMQ's overall annual revenue. The 2025 Coastline Greater Port Macquarie Business Awards Gala Dinner took place on 17 May 2025. It was a great evening of celebration with over 410 attendees.

The awards continue to grow and receive strong support. They are now recognised as the local business event of the year. Feedback from participants indicates they value the opportunity to celebrate with their teams and colleagues, gain recognition for their achievements, raise their profile and take the opportunity to assess and receive feedback on business performance.

Thank you to our Business Awards Sponsors

Naming Rights Sponsor	• Coastline Bank		
Diamond Sponsor	• Lux Laser & Aesthetics		
Gold Sponsor	• JC Entertainment		
Silver Sponsors	• Panthers Port Macquarie	• X-Golf Port Macquarie	
	• Harvey Norman Port Macquarie	• WIN TV	
		• Southern Cross Austereo	
Bronze Sponsors	• HBWN	• Letz Get Lit	• Evelina Kemp Hair & Beauty
	• Focus Port Macquarie	• Colourworks Australia	• Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
	• St Columba Anglican School	• EIRE Constructions	
	• The Witchy Nook	• PURE Property Management	
	• Gem Socials		
	• ETC		
Dinner Sponsors	• Mid Coast Connect	• Business NSW	
	• SoulFire Pole Dance Studio	• Mercure Motel	

Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame Award was introduced in 2011 to acknowledge businesses who have consistently achieved success through the Business Awards process since the awards commenced in 2007.

There are two criteria to enter the Hall of Fame.

- 1) A business must have won five or more awards since the awards began in 2007, and/or
- 2) Have won four awards in consecutive years.

Hall of Fame inductees in 2025 were:



Category winners for 2025

Local Industry Awards

- Accommodation - Mercure Centro Port Macquarie
- Automotive Services - Donnelly's Mechanical
- Childcare, Education & Training - The Nature School
- Cleaning & Property Maintenance Services - Wonder Woman Cleaning Services
- Community & Social Services - Linked Community Services
- Construction - Sovereign Hills
- Creative Services & Communications - Lucy Humphries Photography
- Financial Services - Strive Finance
- Food Production & Catering - Soul Sister Grazing
- Hair & Beauty Services - Lux Laser & Aesthetics
- Health & Wellbeing - All Together Therapy
- Hotels, Clubs & Bars - Fernhill Tavern
- Takeaway Food & Beverages - Salty Crew Kiosk
- Work, Health & Safety - Eire Constructions
- Industry, Manufacturing & Engineering - Birdon
- Outstanding New Business - Jess Manton Specialist Education Services
- Professional & Business Services (5 or less employees) - Gem Socials
- Professional & Business Services (6 or more employees) - Magnified
- Restaurants & Cafes - Seasalt Cafe and Restaurant
- Retail (5 or less employees) - Letz Get Lit 2444
- Retail (6 or more employees) - Harvey Norman Computers Port Macquarie
- Tourism & Attractions - Billabong Zoo
- Woman in Business - Willow Rissel - Brows by Willow

2025 Wayne Jackson Outstanding Community Service Award

- Winner – Melinda Cockshutt

2025 Business Excellence Awards

- Outstanding Community Organisation - Garden Village
- Outstanding Employee - Chloe Mullan - Lux Laser & Aesthetics
- Outstanding Business Leader - Phillippa (Pip) Cullen - All Together Therapy
- Outstanding Young Business Leader - Willow Rissel - Brows by Willow
- Employer of Choice - under 20 employees - Magnified
- Employer of Choice - over 21 employees - Eire Constructions
- Excellence in Innovation - PC Pitstop
- Excellence In Sustainability - PC Pitstop
- Excellence in Micro Business - Brows by Willow
- Excellence in Small Business - Port Macquarie Performing Arts
- Excellence in Large Business - Eire Constructions Pty Ltd

2025 Business of the Year

- Brows by Willow

Forging relationships

Business Port Macquarie is very pleased to continue its representation of member views to community leaders including the PMHC Mayor Adam Roberts and Chief Executive Officer Dr Claire Allen until March 2025 followed by Robert Fish as current Acting CEO, Federal Member Pat Conaghan, and Leslie Williams State Member prior to Robert Dwyer. This advocacy occurs not only via formal written representations on issues of concern, but also through regular face-to-face meetings allowing constructive dialogue on shared challenges and solutions.

Council and Mayor & Federal Member

Business Port Macquarie's executive representatives and Board Sub Committee attend a regular quarterly meeting with the Mayor Adam Roberts, Acting CEO Robert Fish and Federal Member Pat Conaghan. These meetings ensure a collaborative approach on matters of business interest and provide a voice for the business community within our local government area at this executive level.

State Member

Business Port Macquarie's executive representatives and Board Sub Committee attend a regular quarterly meeting with the Robert Dwyer MP. These meetings ensure a collaborative approach on matters of business interest and provide a voice for the business community within our local government area at this executive level.

Business Hub

Bi-monthly meetings of the 'Business Hub' (comprising representatives of all our local business networks and Council's Economic Development team) provide a forum to raise issues of collective business concern, share information about member activities and to facilitate joint promotion or other forms of mutual assistance.

Supporting the Community

Business Port Macquarie often refers to our local business as the "backbone of the community". Local business has a long-standing reputation for involvement in community causes and making a positive contribution.

Business Port Macquarie is proud to have supported various causes throughout the year, including:

- Supporting the local charity, Marine Rescue, via the Combined Business Networks Christmas Party in December 2024
- Supporting the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service via our Annual charity Golf Day