***Around the Grounds***

Abby at Winton has had a record year for Tourism. Abby is new to the role (6 months) and is looking forward to the year ahead.

Laurene at Toowoomba currently acting in this role. Currently have no walk ins in their tourism centres. They do have trolley services with information outside. Looking at a soft return with possibly a service window put into their tourism centre.

Racheal at Cook stated a big year in tourism, and it is looking to be another big year ahead due to a lot of questions. `

Michael at Ipswich said they had a record year of day visits, but their accommodation numbers were down so that is what they are looking at next year.

Scott at Fraser Coast are currently cleaning up after the recent floods. He also agreed that their accommodation rates are up.

Jennifer at Flinders said they are currently doing an overhaul at their discovery centre. Their Tourism numbers are also up.

Paula at Hinchinbrook said their Tourism doors are open at their Tourism centres, but business is slow, but it is their usual slow time of year, but volunteers haven’t come back yet.

Colleen at Lockyer Valley currently have their tourism centres open. They found due to the wet weather people did stay away from their Christmas celebrations.

Kate at Bundaberg said 2021 was a relatively successful year. Currently in Turtle Season and things have been busy due to school holidays.

Elspeth at sunny coast just stepping in for the day and wonder how does everyone attract tourism to their area?

Andrea at Gympie is currently going through a re-structure. They also record a record no. of people in accommodation. They have also had a rise in music festival with not all the correct paperwork taking place. Their 3 Large music festivals to go ahead this year. Also currently working on many repairs thanks to the recent floods.

Jess at Mareeba uses spend map to track spending and have found that most areas are at pre covid levels except Kuranda. Currently working on a tourism plan.

***General Chat***

Mareeba wondered what memberships councils are taking advantage of to boost Tourism to their area e.g. Australian Regional Tourism?

Bundy is currently offering a cert 2 in volunteering for school kids aged 14-18 years of age to help with their low numbers of volunteers.

Lockyer Valley suggested if looking for volunteers for an event maybe advertise on <https://www.thegreynomads.com.au/> website.

Gympie are currently working on an RV strategy and wondering if anyone has done one that maybe able to share or give some tips on the do and don’ts.

**Zoom Chat**

10:00:23 From LGMA - Sharon to Everyone:

 Morning Everyone, Can I please ask for you to put your name and council in the Chat.

10:00:49 From Laurene to Everyone:

 Laurene Bardsley - Toowoomba Regional Council

10:00:51 From paula1633 to Everyone:

 Paula from Hinchinbrook Shire Council

10:01:04 From Abbey Buckham to Everyone:

 Abbey Buckham - Winton Shire Council

10:01:19 From Rachael - Cook Shire Council to Everyone:

 Rachael Miller - Cook Shire Council

10:02:46 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 Hi Sharon - Jess Fealy here - I don't have video today, but have called in on the phone :-)

10:03:12 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 sorry - Jess Fealy from Mareeba Shire Council

10:05:22 From Colleen Daniel to Everyone:

 Colleen here from Lockyer Valley Regional Council :)

10:07:50 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 Hi Rachael :-) - we

10:08:02 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 are almost neighbours :-)

10:09:38 From Jennifer Tasker to Everyone:

 Jennifer here from Flinders Shire Council, Hi everyone.

10:12:02 From Michael Williams (Ipswich) to Everyone:

 Just need to pop out - another Teams call.

10:12:49 From LGMA - Sharon to Everyone:

 No worries thankyou Michael.

10:13:08 From kate.giles to Everyone:

 Kate from Bundaberg Regional Council. Hi everyone!

10:14:42 From Karlie Lane - Southern Downs Regional Council to Everyone:

 Hi Everyone, Karlie from Southern Downs Regional Council. I unfortunately don't have any video or microphone today

10:15:21 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 Hi Paula - where are you from? I missed that sorry.

10:15:46 From paula1633 to Everyone:

 Hinchinbrook Shire Council

10:16:08 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 Thanks Paula - just down the road almost :-)

10:16:36 From Laurene to Everyone:

 Excellent! Looking forward to your new guide

10:29:26 From Laurene to Everyone:

 No

10:29:29 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 no

10:30:48 From Jennifer Tasker to Everyone:

 Could everyone share if they have cancelled festivals this year or they going ahead.

10:33:12 From kate.giles to Everyone:

 Events and Festivals going ahead in Bundaberg Region, bearing in mind our large festivals aren't scheduled until mid year and later in 2022.

10:34:45 From Jennifer Tasker to Everyone:

 Thanks Kate, I am just trying to gauge what other Councils are doing as our Council have cancelled our major event for Easter 2023 citing Covid.

10:35:34 From Laurene to Everyone:

 Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers was one of the only major festivals which went ahead in 2020 and was hugely successful. The event was extended for the entire month of September to manage crowds and due to its success will continue in the same format this year. Our Summer Tunes (music in the park) events have been postponed to April (from Jan/Feb)

10:37:05 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 thanks Sharon - that would be awesome

10:38:52 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 oh great idea Kate! Is this certificate just something Council produces in house?

10:39:33 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 love it, we are so keen to target a different demographic to enhance our more mature volunteer graph

10:39:52 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 Kate - is that Cert 2 in volunteering a TAFE thing?

10:40:16 From Colleen Daniel to Everyone:

 Lockyer Valley is planning on delivering the Lockyer Valley Heritage Festival in April that showcases our historical villages and museums. Most likely just the historical villages this year due to COVID. Laidley Spring Festival is going ahead at this stage early in September, first meeting next week. It's a watch and see for the first 6mths.

10:40:34 From paula1633 to Everyone:

 We had to cancel Australia Day celebrations and some minor events, but hoping to resume all events by March and our big event for the year Tasman Parkfest is set to go ahead in May (Hinchinbrook Shire Council)

10:40:57 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 Any valuable tourism memberships that other council's recommend?

10:42:19 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 Our great wheelbarrow race event is still going ahead https://www.greatwheelbarrowrace.com/

10:42:33 From kate.giles to Everyone:

 That's Cert II in Active Volunteering with Volunteers Queensland

10:42:46 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 Thanks Kate - will check it out

10:43:11 From kate.giles to Everyone:

 Also interested in the Tourism Strategy if anyone's willing to share? Particularly with sustainability elements?

10:43:54 From Colleen Daniel to Everyone:

 https://www.thegreynomads.com.au/classifieds/help-wanted/. You can also advertise your events for a small fee.

10:44:57 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 that would be great Sharon re olympics

10:45:07 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 Kate - I like this strategy https://www.tilmagroup.com.au/case-studies-1/2020/4/4/visitor-economy-strategy-activation-plan

10:48:17 From kate.giles to Everyone:

 Similar to Elspeth's heritage plans engaging with community and historians, has anyone had experience with the same concept engaging FN elders to record their stories?

10:48:40 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 anyone one a member? Is it valuable?

10:48:47 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 https://regionaltourism.com.au/

10:49:19 From kate.giles to Everyone:

 We're a member Jess

10:50:34 From Laurene to Everyone:

 Love to hear more about the Buy Local card

10:50:57 From Laurene to Everyone:

 Thank you!

10:51:33 From Colleen Daniel to Everyone:

 https://www.whyleavetown.com/

10:59:30 From Rachael - Cook Shire Council to Everyone:

 I have to head to another meeting, thanks everyone! :)

11:02:09 From jessicaf to Everyone:

 Thanks Sharon and nice to chat to you all - I have to head off now too.

11:02:15 From LGMA - Sharon to Everyone:

 Thankyou.

11:02:27 From Abbey Buckham to Everyone:

 Thanks Sharon and all

11:02:31 From Jennifer Tasker to Everyone:

 Jenny from Hughenden, no membership here. The park is self registering as it is free.

11:04:49 From kate.giles to Everyone:

 Thanks everyone.

11:05:11 From Colleen Daniel to Everyone:

 Thanks Sharon and thanks everyone