**Lara Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc. President’s Report November 2019- Karen Madden**

In reflecting on the last 12 months I am both proud and frustrated. Any volunteer organisation is challenging to run. As a business community I like nothing better than hearing how busy people are, but I wonder if The Lara Chamber of Commerce & Industry is meeting the needs of this region if people aren’t becoming involved and benefiting from all the hard work that the committee has put in behind the scenes this year. I personally want to acknowledge the hours spent in meetings, admin, social media, event organisation and liaising with local businesses that the committee have generously given up their time for this year.

In 2019 we aimed to offer a diverse range of meetings and opportunities for social networking, community and business development. We have continued to update the Lara Chamber Business website to allow higher visibility and connection for regional businesses. This is free for all Lara Businesses and financial Members can also display their logo, photos and advertisements on their listings. We also have had three businesses take up the offer of a premium listing on the front page of the website and event sponsorship.

Our committee this year has worked very well as a team and have brought together many skills in delivering events this year.Vice President Nicole Makin-Doherty, Treasurer Phil Proctor, Secretary Jenna Kerr, Committee Jenny Medwell, Dean Hinch, Jodie Howell, Kate Kroegar, Lorraine Whittaker

**Events 2019: What your Chamber has been up to this year**

* Australia Day Breakfast-
  + Jumping Castle run by chamber committee
* February –
  + Avalon Airport Tourism Forum with 6 speakers. (40 guests)
* March –
  + Successful Food and Wine Festival and thanks to chamber members who helped on the gate looked very stylish in the new Chamber of Commerce & Industry High Vis vests, thanks to Tricia.
  + Les Watson workshop for time efficiency in business and life (30 participants)
* April – Business Bus in Lara again offering free mentoring and business advice
* Anzac Day
  + Chamber was proud to lay a wreath again at the dawn service
  + Anzac Cup football match and luncheon at the Lara Sporting Club again with RSL president Bruce Challoner as our Guest speaker. Raised $1000 for Lara RSL and sponsored Anzac medals for football and netball games for weekend
* June
  + Pizza & Pinot Night at Millars celebrating 15 new members to Lara Chamber
* July Mental Health Fundraiser and community evening
  + Building on positive feedback from last year it was proposed that this becomes an annual event and we were proud to partner with the Lara Sporting Club & Lara District community Bank to present this evening and total of $2500 donated to Project Thrive for work in local schools. Over 80 people attended on the night to hear educational information and personal stories of mental health, suicide statistics & prevention, PTSD and addiction challenges.  We were privileged to have 6 diverse speakers representing Project Thrive, Lara Secondary College, Lara Sporting Club, The Power in you Project and Lara community.  [Momentum Coaching](https://www.facebook.com/AuthenticCoach/?__xts__%5B0%5D=68.ARBBgFfEpK8d-ZkQop-wbL8tMU0tQYGGV4niNZkb7cHDXcdFnfAmO74HOKpGgG6EyMvGw-BT_Nx4vFMqOjdh-E83LFQEKWqrCzoMvYB9_ktBYyq7MpIDEdChFx7HGWX2a0JCHmUnKvnLOVpWaTIDPPYgl6fya4LMV0xuu_MSqWFNatDoq2ylGP4OrpWNdWG2sFzdi3z6Y8L6dMVyOYHBHpQ_Tdtqhj1D44h5N_-P07OLZGbA8rHdOsgxzNE_3Qiw0KSnfMUAJ-1seGAZMsPQiSN3pA1JHcKdRvOk3XMnYM2l1k6AOrbF15xPOQkOJKSnem2pulHTQwV6I14SkwuF5r1TYw&__tn__=%2CdK%2AF-R&eid=ARCi1a2I-ZMWWSOB68LIbKGl6cMwicju00DqhkiEORVEEAoxxP0BGDD5n0G6At2L1x-VJPPtF4F-tFx2) also offered free Mental Health First Aid training session to all participants.
* August
  + Coffee with a cop sponsored by Lara Chamber
* September
  + RSL Gatsby night – we stepped back in time and enjoyed tours of RSL displays, Oscar Edwards on the keys and fine food.
  + Chris Watts fundraiser raffle raising $700 to donate to family on sad passing of one of our members
* November
  + Christmas and AGM
  + Chamber Christmas trees - Lara and region Primary Schools are decorating Christmas trees that we had made by Lara Mens shed and will be displayed in Centreway
* December
  + Launch of Lara Chamber of Commerce Regional Information Map to raise the profile of Lara region and local Businesses and assist Lara regional tourism development.