

# Voice for the Coast Winter 2023

## Message From the Chair



It's been exciting times for the Coast these last few months, with a historic 6-1 win for the Central Coast Mariners in the A-League Championship being a great source of pride for both the Club and our wider community.

As many of you know, the Mariners are very close to my heart – having coached them to two previous grand finals, as well as a minor premiership and pre-season cup.

The significance of this victory and the huge volume of community support behind it is helping to carve our regional identity and show we are a strong and competitive region at every level.

[READ THE FULL MESSAGE](#)



[Regional Development Australia Central Coast](#) and the [Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW](#), recently hosted their most popular forum to date in the successful Central Coast Developers Forum Series.

The fifth Developers Forum featured keynote presentations by Minister for the Central Coast, [David Harris MP](#), and [Central Coast Council](#) CEO, David Farmer, and attracted more than 60 attendees including representatives from all levels of government, regional leaders and local developers, with the aim of improving development and economic outcomes for the Central Coast.

[READ THE FULL DETAILS](#)

## Appointment Puts Affordable Housing in the Spotlight

CEO [Pacific Link Housing](#), Ian Lynch, has joined RDACC's Leadership and Collaboration Committee to help progress affordable housing initiatives on the Central Coast.

Following on from last year's inaugural [Affordable Housing Summit](#), this appointment will enable RDACC and Pacific Link Housing to continue to work together to help address this critical regional issue.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

# Minister McBain Visit a Promising Sign of Future Support

RDACC welcomed the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, [The Hon. Kristy McBain](#), on her visit to the Central Coast recently to discuss regionally significant projects.

Hosted by RDACC, the visit allowed Minister McBain to meet with a number of regional stakeholders and learn more about the projects and challenges shaping our community including [enabling infrastructure](#), [food innovation](#), [affordable housing](#), healthcare and [manufacturing](#).



[READ THE FULL DETAILS](#)



# REGIONAL INNOVATIONS, GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

You're invited to join us in exploring export and trade opportunities for regional businesses to increase investment within our wider region.

**REGISTER NOW**



## Meet Our Board Members



**Anna Cruckshank**

An Accredited Specialist Business Lawyer with NSW Law Society and Accredited Company Director (GAICD), Anna has been practicing law for 28 years and is now the Managing Director at [Aubrey Brown Lawyers](#).



**Matt Kelly**

With over 25 years of experience in the health industry, Matt is the Head of Regional Operations – North at [Healthe Care](#). In this role, he oversees several hospitals on the Central Coast, including Brisbane Waters Private,



## MEET THE FACES BEHIND RDACC

# Quality Development: Pacific Link Housing

Based on the Central Coast, [Pacific Link Housing](#) is a not-for-profit community housing provider that has spent more than 40 years working to provide safe, secure and affordable homes for those in need, and helping to build thriving and inclusive communities that benefit everyone.

As the cost of living crisis deepens and with record numbers of women aged 55 and over now experiencing homelessness, we spoke to the organisation's CEO, Ian Lynch, about how his team is delivering quality developments across the Central Coast.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Local Food Innovators

Our [Local Food Innovator](#) series highlights some of the producers, manufacturers and entrepreneurs who are making the Coast a coveted food destination.



Best mates and local entrepreneurs **Alice Cannan** and **Jessica Hall** understand the value of a **special moment shared over a cocktail** between friends.

It's this experience that led them to jump in the deep end, launching their own **Margarita mixer label, [SIPPS](#)**, right here on the Coast in November last year.

Already distributing to stockists across Australia, we sat down with Alice to find out **what is making SIPPS such a phenomenon.**

Like many of us, **Chris Oakes** spent much of his time during the COVID-19 lockdowns baking up a storm, but what started as a passion project soon grew into a booming business.

Today, **[Shhmoakesys Gourmet Pies](#)** are well known for their eight hour smoked meat creations and knock-your-socks-off flavours.

In fact, they were even **named 'Best Pie' by Wotif.com in their 'Uniquely Aussie Awards'!**

Here, we chat to Chris and Ebony about how a little innovation and creativity has transformed their not-so-humble pies into a national sensation.



With a history in the spice trade **stretching back more than 50 years**, the team behind **[Herbie's Spices](#)** has been receiving rave reviews for their range of culinary herbs, spices and unique spice blends, and best of all, they're all **developed and made on-site in Charmhaven** under the watchful eye of **owners Ian and Liz Hemphill** and **General Manager, Jason Kent.**

As the team celebrates its 25 year anniversary, we caught up with Ian to



get the low-down on these seriously good spices.

SEE ALL LOCAL FOOD INNOVATORS

## They are the Champions!

We're sending our **congratulations** to the [Central Coast Mariners](#), who took out a historic 6-1 win in the A-League Championship.

It's a moment of special significance for our Chair, Lawrie McKinna, who is often credited with establishing the Mariners as our region's first A-League sporting team, and who also coached them to two previous grand finals, as well as a minor premiership and pre-season cup.

Well done to these local heroes. The entire Central Coast region is so proud of your accomplishments.



*Image credit: Central Coast Mariners.*

## Growing Regions Program



**GROWING REGIONS PROGRAM  
ROUND 1**



**OPEN  
SOON**

Expressions of interest for Round 1 of the Growing Regions Program are set to open on 5 July 2023.

[AusGov Infrastructure's Growing Regions Program](#) is opening soon with \$300 million available for projects across regional and rural Australia.

With our region previously benefiting from funding under the program, this is a great opportunity to support more community-led infrastructure projects on the Central Coast.

**FIND OUT MORE**

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**RDACC**

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