

July 15th, 2019

President's Notes – July 2019

The government got its tax legislation passed (thank you Jacqui L!) so there will be some healthy tax refunds flowing hopefully into cash registers around the city in coming weeks. We have some new entrants into the local business community with the iconic *Rialto* taken over by Jaci Smith and Katie Lockett. The Chamber wishes Janine and Marc Licandro all the best for the future and congratulates them for their decades of outstanding service in the local hospitality industry.

I noticed that Chamber Executive member Bec Luck of LJ Hookers recently leased out two shops in Cattley St and another in Wilmot St – vacancies on our main block are filling up. We also congratulate Kevin Young on selling *Not Just Books after* over 25 years of operation and *Healthglo* in West Burnie for their 50 years of service to the fitness industry.

Mid-June I attended the Tasmanian Energy Development Conference in Devonport. It was an eye-opening event as we heard from all the major players in the renewables industry plus from Hydro of the plans for the development of Tasmania as the *Battery of the Nation*. I visited Cethana Dam and power station as part of the conference activities. It is one of three proposed sites for the *BotN* project and Chris Wynne of Hydro will be presenting on this at our breakfast session on September 11th.

The key to the future of our renewables industry is the implementation of *Project Marinus* (second Bass Strait interconnector). At a cost around \$3B it is an expensive project but one that will deliver thousands of jobs in Tasmania for decades to come and provide us a means to export our clean energy to the main market of Victoria. We must continue to lobby all our politicians to support this project being funded as part of our national infrastructure.

One interesting presentation was from H2U which is investigating establishing a hydrogen manufacturing facility in Tasmania – good access to clean energy and proximity to a deep-water port are two of the prime requirements. I have invited the CEO of H2U to visit us in coming months. Prominent Australian futurist Dr Richard Hames predicts by 2030, 80 per cent of public transport in Australian cities could be hydrogen-fuelled.

We are in the middle of our winter hiatus in regard to the breakfast sessions. So many members seem to head off to Queensland or beyond so we do not recommence until August 14th when Chris Whitelaw of Whitelaw Legal Group will be speaking to us on *Business Law 101*. We conducted a survey recently to enquire on what legal matters are highest priority for our members and Chris will be using those results to create his presentation.

The rebranding of the Chamber is close to completion and will aid in expanding our geographical spread plus attract a more diverse range of businesspeople to the organisation. We are holding a breakfast on August 28th at The Wharf Hotel in Wynyard featuring the CEO of Grange Resources, Ben Maynard speaking to us on *“Grange - Unlocking what lies beneath”*.

One group of businesses that largely goes unnoticed is the professional trades people – commonly known as “tradies”. A lot of people including the tradies don't think of themselves as businesses; but many of them have an ABN number, they have loans, debtors, creditors and stock just like retailers in Wilson St. In fact, I reckon there are more trades businesses in Burnie than there are retail shops.

They could be a “one man ban band” or employ 3-4 staff but they have the same issues as other similar sized businesses. We are trying to reach out to the trade professionals to tell them we can help – we can give them a voice in the community and let them know what training is available in business processes - they know their trade – but often don’t know a lot about business which is forever changing

One of the impending changes is the introduction of Single Touch Payroll. STP is a new way of reporting tax and super information to the tax office and it is mandatory for small businesses with less than 19 employees to start to report before Sept 30th. It is already in place for larger businesses and if small businesses don’t know what to do, they should get in touch with their financial adviser, accountant or the Chamber to make sure they are set up correctly. Most of the common accounting packages can do the job and just need to be configured to do it. There are some different requirements for micro businesses; that’s 1-4 people so those business operators should check the ATO website for details.

I visited the Elphinstone simulated work environment out at South Burnie recently – it’s a fascinating concept and people come from all over the country to undergo training there - it’s not just for the manufacturing sector – it can be applied to any occupation from clerical to retail to mining. It virtually rewires your brain to work more effectively - and we could all do with that! I hope to organise a visit for Chamber members to this facility in coming weeks.

I hope you can join us at the General Meeting this Wednesday and perhaps for a meal and a beverage afterwards.

best regards



Ian Jones - **President**

