

## **President's Notes – September 2019**

It was an honour to be re-elected as your President at the recent AGM and to have our Executive of Justin McErlain and Kial Hingston stay in their roles of Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Sam Hoare, Nick Higgins and Colleen Atkinson join the Executive and we farewell Richard Ruddle, Kirk Pinner, Sonya Guizzo and Barry Campbell and thank them sincerely for their help and guidance over recent years.

I am pleased to advise we have completed the first of four training courses under the federal government grant funding our for Helping Burnie Work project.

We were successful in obtaining permanent employment for one participant within two weeks of the start of the course. I believe we have made a major contribution to the capabilities of the remaining eight applicants with all of them expressing their gratitude for us presenting a different type of training course. The majority of our training focuses on getting the participants to improve their resumes and their interview techniques whilst improving their confidence and self-esteem.

We had a number of local business operators come to speak to the participants regarding what they look for in potential employees and the opportunities within their organisations. The participants really enjoyed getting to speak to actual employers and have learned the importance of networking; as Tasmania has the highest rate of people securing jobs through the “who you know” network.

In the April federal budget, the government stated it would fund ten regional training hubs around Australia for an amount of \$50.6 million over four years. I moved quickly to secure one of these one of these hubs for Burnie, and with support from Cradle Coast Authority and the Devonport and Central Coast Chambers we approached Senator Colbeck; two weeks later we were advised we had been successful.

Two of the ten hubs are to be commenced in January 2020 and last week we lobbied Senator Colbeck directly and worked with Devonport and Central Coast Chambers to issue a media release to try and further influence Senator Michaelia Cash to select Burnie as one of those locations. We anticipate an announcement in the next two weeks.

Justin, Donna and I, along with two CBD retailers met with the Burnie City Council for a workshop in late August. The workshop was organised to form a group that could promote Burnie and was an initiative from counsellor Dorsey. We are developing a calendar of events and a funding program to manage promotion of the city that we will submit to Council for discussion.

Our events team is working closely with council and some interested retailers to resurrect the Burnie Excellence Awards. The event will be held on Saturday, November 9 at the Burnie Arts and Function Centre so please put that date in your diary. 7BU/SeaFM has agreed to be the major sponsor of the event and other companies are currently signing on as silver partners. Voting forms will be finalised later this week ready for printing and distribution next week.

Bec Luck, Sam Hoare and Michael Cannon are doing great work on this event.

Breakfast sessions continue to go well and last week we had Chris Wynne, manager of the *Battery of the Nation* project present to us. It is a fascinating project which will have a major impact on the region over the next 10 years. Chris made an interesting presentation and there was a high level of engagement from the members during question time.

Critical to the project's success is the implementation of project Marinus the second Bass Strait interconnector. It is the key to unlock the overall potential of the pumped hydro scheme and the many windfarm developments in the region.

Our next breakfast is on September 25<sup>th</sup> and features Stuart Clues from the Office of the Coordinator General - he will be speaking on *Reducing red tape through 1000 cuts*. Stuart is the Small Business Advocate for the Tasmanian government and will cover what is red tape in the Tasmanian context and how it impacts on small business. He will address what he has done since being appointed and what is on the table at the moment.

*Project Hercules* is drawing to a close and I expect all videos to be complete by the end of the week. I will be showing some of them at the General Meeting on Wednesday.

This Wednesday's General Meeting is being held at the TMEC facility in Wellington South Burnie. At the conclusion of the meeting Kent Wylie, Advanced Manufacturing General Manager will give us an overview of the Centre of Excellence and a tour of the building.

best regards



Ian Jones – President

