

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

Well it's that time of the year again! Time to reflect on our achievements for the year, what worked, what didn't and are we happy with our efforts?

It's time to wind down from the frenetic activities of our daily business and personal lives, relax and spend time with family and friends.

We have had a very busy year. We concluded project *Hercules* and will be releasing all the videos in a special presentation early in the New Year. We felt this was better than releasing in December as their value may get lost in the Christmas rush and the Dept of State Growth will release a new website early next year featuring the videos.

We have successfully delivered two training courses under our Regional Employment Trials program *Helping Burnie Work*. The programs were geared to support long-term unemployed people and improve their employability. I thank the small businesses members that participated and assisted us in increasing the employability of those people. In fact, one; Bradley got a job with our very own Barry Campbell at Betta Home Living (*on the one-way street – it's a bit hard to find!*)

Brad was very proactive in responding to the job advert and this was key to gaining an interview, securing the job and according to Barry, Brad is doing well so far.

There are two more HBW courses to deliver in the New Year and Ken Dorsey of Workforce Development will be driving those for us as Kirk Pinner has moved to Hobart – we thank Kirk for all the work he did on securing the HBW grant and delivering the first two courses.

Another highlight of the year was the rebranding to *Business Northwest*. We felt this was necessary to extend our range geographically and demographically to attract younger business people into our organisation. Within the first four weeks we had nine new members join and there is wide ranging support for the new brand.

A major project we undertook in 2019 was to run the Burnie Excellence Awards. These were formerly run by Citylink and had not occurred for a couple of years. It was a successful event with around 100 people attending and planning is already underway for next year's event. 7BU/SeaFM were our major sponsor for the event.

The big news last week was the City Council voting unanimously to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Business North West to establish a Burnie Promotions Committee including Council resourcing of:

- a 0.4 FTE staff member
- up to \$20,000 in discretionary funding for the remainder of this Financial Year
- up to \$40,000 in discretionary funding per year for the next four Financial Years

We will be assembling the committee early in the new year and evaluating proposals from local businesses for co-funding of promotions around the city.

The provision of a staff member for two days per week will enable us to make it all happen. At BNW we are all volunteers and already do many things for local businesses; and without the support of the staff member wouldn't be able to do this. The new promotions committee will be able to identify opportunities, plan them and will have a resource to make them happen.

The Council Director for Community and Economic Development, Rodney Greene has done a great job to put it together from just a few meetings with myself and Councillor David Pease.

A big thank you to all our sponsors especially the 7BU/SeaFM team and to Design Eye Creative who have been platinum sponsors for several years now. Also, our thanks to Mancell Financial for their continued sponsorship and we welcome aboard our new gold sponsors Hays Recruitment and Knight Frank Commercial Real Estate.

The support of these great companies allows us to expand our services, increase our support to local business and keep our membership fees amongst the lowest in the nation.

Wishing you an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

best regards



Ian Jones – President

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