

August 18th, 2020

AUGUST 2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another busy month as we lead into our AGM Wednesday August 19th - I hope you are able to join us for that. We have had a great year.

Our breakfast networking sessions remain popular and are envied by business organisations all over the state. We have held two in the last few weeks; the first being Adam Goern speaking on the *Milk Road* which is his concept of trade up into Asia from Tasmania similar to the Silk Road that exists between China and Europe. It's an interesting concept that attracted a lot of interest at the breakfast.

Last week we had Alex Simpson speak to us about his development of the Granville Harbour Wind Farm. It was an interesting story of two mates that developed a \$280 million project in the wilds of Tasmania's west coast. Alex also spoke of his next project at Whale Back Ridge which is nearby the Reece Dam. It is a massive project with over 400 turbines creating energy to power a hydrogen development plant for the export of hydrogen into Asia via the Burnie Port.

It is a fantastic project and will take several years to get off the ground and complete, but it does highlight the potential that our region has in terms of national and international energy supply.

If you have a suggestion for a speaker at one of our breakfast sessions, please let me know. We have just locked in TasPorts CEO Anthony Donald for September 23rd. He will be speaking to us on the future developments of the Burnie port.

We had two workshop presentations with Burnie City Council in recent weeks. The first was to present destination marketing and promotional campaigns to attract more visitors from intrastate and eventually interstate to come to Burnie.

The second workshop related to technology to support our proposed promotional activities and we are working with council staff to establish final costs before projects can commence.

At the end of July, we said farewell to former council general manager Andrew Wardlaw. Andrew was a strong supporter of our organisation, attending both breakfast and general meetings and helping to build the strong bond that now exists between our two organisations. His support will be missed, and we certainly wish him well for the future

For many sectors business seems to be returning to pre-COVID levels. Some businesses are even enjoying increased sales due to the effects of the pandemic. However, the members of our tourism and hospitality sectors are still suffering. I don't see our borders opening up significantly in the near future – perhaps until Christmas, so we need to do everything we can to support our local tourism sites, accommodation suppliers and hospitality venues.

Our e-commerce marketplace continues to grow albeit slowly, so we will now start to build a marketing program to really push the site to people on the north west coast in line with our shop local theme.

I am our representative on the *BIG* Committee which focusses on creating employment pathways for our young people. Many of those in Year 12 need to perform a VET placement to finish their schooling. If you are able to offer a VET position to help a member of our future workforce, please contact Andrea Dallas at Council on 6430 5832.

On a final note, we welcome CVGT back as a gold sponsor and look forward to their participation for the coming year. I am sure we will see more of their representative Jannah Digby at breakfasts in the near future.

I wish you a busy and productive (& profitable) month.



Ian Jones

President

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