

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JANUARY 2021

January 18th, 2021

Happy New Year!!

I hope you had an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year. For many it was the first chance to see friends and relatives in many months.

COVID continued to exert its influence over state borders and for many of us travelling it required a daily check of "what are the rules now?" After hearing some horror stories about arriving in Melbourne I chose to get a direct flight from Sydney to Launceston rather than risking a couple of days (or two weeks of quarantine) in Melbourne. At time of writing (at 34,000') this seems fine.....

Most retailers seem to have enjoyed a good December and with money awash in the national economy it is no surprise. The real test for our economic rebound will come in a couple of months when JobKeeper and JobSeeker reduce. Concern is mounting and I believe the federal government must have plans to act quickly if necessary. Tourism operators are still suffering from a lack of international visitors plus uncertainty by "mainlanders" around state border restrictions. I met many people in NSW that are holidaying in-state this year, so they do not get caught up in Premiers' games.

Our Renew Burnie project is up and running. Cyndia Hilliger is the Project Manager and has issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) for microbusinesses and creatives to apply for shop locations in the arcades. Cyndia received the first response within ten minutes of posting the EOI last week and will be hosting a Q&A evening for interested parties in early February.

We will be featuring Lindy HUME, Artistic Director from *Ten Days on the Island* at our first networking breakfast session on February 3rd; we are also working closely with TDOTI for integration of our Living History project as a concurrent display to the 2021 festival.

Our project to light up the Norfolk Pine tree for Christmas was very successful and well appreciated by the crowd that attended plus had lots of support on social media. Justin McErlain did a fantastic job to get the project completed in a short timeframe.

Our first General Meeting for the year is Wednesday JAN 20 at 6pm in the Board Room at the RSL Club. I hope you can join me there.

Best regards



Ian Jones - President

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