

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021**Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Well, 2021 is off to a flying start!

The good news is that the first lot of vaccine has arrived and 4 million will be jabbed by the end of April; let's hope the rest can be vaccinated by the end of 2021 so we can put this behind us.

Business seems to be recovering well (aside from tourism) but many retailers are still having difficulties in sourcing stock and components from overseas. Electronics, fashion items and even medications can be hard to get. The lack of planes flying obviously affects air freight thereby lengthening the supply chain. It will eventually improve but it could take all year to do so – all I can say is get your orders in ASAP.

We are starting to discuss promotions and events again and the Council has a Bite'n'Brew set for FEB 27<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the finish of the Rally of Champions motor racing event. [See here for more info](#). Now COVID rules are a little more relaxed we look forward to holding more community events and are starting planning for the 2021 Excellence in Service awards.

Tomorrow is a busy day, starting with a breakfast event at Wellers Inn at 7:30am and ending with our monthly General Meeting at the RSL Club at 6pm.

In the morning we have Mr James Roberts-Thomson, a prominent local surgeon speaking to us. James grew up on a farm at Table Cape and was educated locally at Wynyard Primary School, Friends School and later in the Faculty of Medicine at UTAS. James has been providing general surgery along the coast for many years. He is also a fitness fanatic and runs, swims, rows and climbs mountains! The breakfast is at Wellers Inn; starts at 7:30 and goes till 8:30 and costs just \$20 for members and \$25 for guests and everybody is welcome to join us.

The following fortnight on March 3<sup>rd</sup> we have Sheree Vertigan and Darrel Connelly from the Cradle Coast Authority speaking about the *Regional Economic Development Steering Group*.

Our *Renew Burnie* project is underway with Cyndia receiving several positive responses to our EOI for enterprises to occupy shops in the two arcades off Wilson St. Interviews will be held this week and we hope to have our first participants live in March. We are also embarking on revitalisation projects around the CBD. The first project is a mural to be painted on the eastern wall of the Burnie Plaza shopping centre. It will be above the bench seat near the taxi rank.

Our QR code based *Living History* project is developing very well and will feature as part of the *Ten Days on the Island* festival commencing March 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be ten locations around the city centre featuring a QR code. When scanned the code will present a picture of the building/area in a bygone era plus a short story of it. We plan to expand this to other parts of the city and maybe nearby towns in the medium term.

You may be aware that John Pease has been in hospital in Hobart for a few weeks. He is now back in Burnie but at the NWRH with a touch of pneumonia. We wish John all the best for a speedy recovery – we miss the history lessons he provides at dinner following our meetings.

Our final course for *Helping Burnie Work* under the Regional Employment Trials program will be held in April; we have commissioned a report into the effectiveness of this program and will have that for next month's meeting.

I hope to see you tomorrow at breakfast and/or the meeting.

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

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