

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MAY 2021Monday, May 17th, 2021

Another month has flown by and it has been an interesting one. The state election has been run and won with many interesting side issues. We extend our congratulations to Premier Gutwein and his team and hope he can get his new ministry settled in quickly. We seem to have retained the previous line-up of members in Braddon and extend our best wishes to Jeremy, Roger, Felix, Anita and Shane. Special mention to Anita for becoming deputy leader of the ALP.

Probably the biggest news of the past month was the announcement by Burnie City Council of its changes to its operations. We commiserate with the staff who will lose their positions; and thank them for their service over the years – many of them have helped us tremendously, especially in the last couple of years.

Whilst there will be short term pain for the art gallery and museum the creation of a new combined, integrated gallery and museum is an exciting concept that should give new life to aging infrastructure and provide fresh opportunities to entertain locals and attract visitors.

The closure of the Visitor Centre at Makers Workshop has accelerated our plan to create a mobile VIC and work will commence on that next week.

We have made good progress on our projects to livestream the platypus colony at EVRG and the penguins down at West Park – internet comms have been established at both sites and Justin will be deploying cameras in coming weeks.

Today I met with Minister for Veterans Affairs Darren Chester, Gavin Pearce MP, Jane Burns from Open Arms, Dr Andrew Clarke and members of the North West Veterans Welfare Board to discuss the establishment of a permanent wellness centre for veterans of the region. I attended in my capacity as President but also as a member of the NWVWB and am delighted that the minister embraced the efforts of the Board over the last two years. The model established, including The Veteran's Hub in City Square as part of our *Renew Burnie* project is further advanced than almost any other such initiative in the nation and we will be creating a business case for significant funding for a centre in Burnie.

Our recent breakfasts have been very interesting. Last week Paul Cenoz from OSINT Combined scared us by exposing how our data is used online. Two weeks earlier we had Andy Bower, the new GM at Hellyer Road Distillery. He gave a great presentation on branding and where he thinks HRD can go. If you missed these, they are available for viewing on our Facebook page.

Next week we have Dr Patrice Braun speaking to us. She is the Principal Consultant at Patrice Braun Associates and the Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Women & Technology (APCWT), one of ten globally networked centres to mainstream women in the knowledge economy.

Renew Burnie continues to attract interest and last Friday *Blackspace Creative* had a grand opening in City Square (opposite Print Domain) - from a decoration and merchandising view this shop could "hold its own" with shops in Melbourne and Sydney.

This Friday we are hosting a lunch with the Treasurer Josh Frydenberg who will be presenting the Federal Budget Roadshow - this will be a great lunch. It is now sold out and we thank Gavin Pearce for his assistance in securing this event.

Next week I will be signing an MOU for the extension of the Chamber Alliance agreement with TCCI. This is an important group for us to be a part of and we have been a major proponent of it for some years now. It gives us a good voice on a statewide basis, frequent contact with the Minister for Small Business plus provides a great overview of the activities of other business groups within Tasmania. It also allows our members to get two free IR calls each year to help get through TCCI.

Following our meeting Wednesday evening please join us for a meal in the RSL bistro.

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

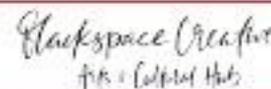
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