

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – February 2022

I am pleased to advise that we have decided to proceed with having a General Meeting on Wednesday February 16th at the Burnie RSL Club. We will hold the meeting in the *Cameron Baird VC Room* as it is a larger room and better for COVID distancing.

Since we last met in December much has happened. Our state border was reopened, COVID re-joined the Tasmanian economy and has hit some of our members quite hard. Whilst case numbers are declining, we are still very much in the midst of the pandemic, and it is having a marked effect on the economy.

Earlier this month we commenced another of our *Helping Burnie Work* training courses and will be seeking positions for work experience for several of the participants so I ask you if you have a position available for one week in early March it would be greatly appreciated as it helps these folk know what having a job is all about and what is expected in a small business.

The 7BU/SeaFM Northwest Excellence Awards event had to be cancelled due to lack of ticket sales; like many other events we had trouble getting interest albeit well received on social media by ourselves and 7BU. We have decided to make videos of each winner being presented to by the sponsor. These will be created over the next few weeks and released by social media.

Recently we joined with *Ten Days on the Island* and Burnie City Council in a media release to advise we have secured the former Dick Smith premises in Wilmot St and are creating *intersection* - a pop-up art gallery. TDOTI has secured an exhibition by the National Portrait Gallery, this will show during March. The NPG only tours to three locations in the country annually so we are honoured to be hosting it. Following on there will be two exhibitions by Tasmanian artists, Michael Muruste followed by Anna Van Stralen plus Lex Palmer Bull; *intersection* will be a major visitor and tourist attractor, especially the NPG. We are actively seeking volunteers to assist in conducting these exhibitions so please contact me if you can assist.

The Table Cape project has been delayed somewhat as we await approvals from PWS – the revised completion date is now September. Content creation continues.

The *Burnie in a Box* project has been handed over to Burnie Council for completion.

The battle to stop the relocation of the Burnie courthouse to Mooreville Road continues. I have made submissions to the Standing Committee members plus local media and am keeping pressure on so as to get the government to reconsider their decision and to engage with local community members. We have a potential alternate location proposal to present to the government and hope to do this by end of the month.

The penguin cam project continues to develop with more cameras being installed this last weekend – [for live feed click here](#). The Council has made a commitment to increase surveillance on the are and we are part of that initiative.

In mid-December we submitted a proposal to the Department of State Growth for funds under the Gateway project. We expect to hear of the next steps in this exciting project by the end of February. Our proposal was to embrace our rhododendron heritage and green up the gateways into Burnie by planting as many rhododendrons as we can at entry points to the city.

We have had recent meetings with local members Roger Jaensch, Felix Ellis and Anita Dow discussing the current business climate and needs of the region, especially Burnie. Additionally, we have met with executives from The Office of the Coordinator General and Regional Development Australia and continue to put forward initiatives for regional development.

Depending on the COVID situation we plan to recommence breakfast networking sessions in March - stay tuned to your email for details.

The government has recently announced round two of its business support package – whilst it is not a great deal of money anything helps in these tough times. See the Business Tasmanian website - [COVID-19 Business Impact Support Program](#).

I hope to see you at our meeting.

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

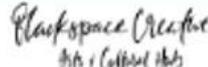
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