

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – March 2022**

A month is a long time in the world economy isn't it!

Since we last met the world has been turned upside down with the conflict in Ukraine – a terrible humanitarian crisis unfolding. The impact on the world economy has already been felt as fuel prices have soared and will quickly cause inflation to rise. That will in turn force the Reserve Bank to raise interest rates and already economists are talking of a possible recession.

We have had a very busy month attending meetings relating to creating jobs and pathways for the unemployed plus meetings for the economic impact of Marinus and a business summit with CCCCI.

Just after our last meeting we opened the intersection art space in the Columar Court complex and with the help of Ten Days on the Island and Burnie Council we are hosting Living Memory the National Portrait Gallery Photographic Prize exhibition and I can assure you the large photographs on display are spectacular. We are getting great feedback from the general public, so I am urging all members to drop in and have a look.

It's open from 10am-5pm Thursday through Monday for the next two weeks (until the 27th) and is free of charge. Visitors can park in the multi storey car park and just walk across the street to it. And remember, the first hour of parking there is free so you can have a very cheap outing and see the best photographs in the country – these were chosen from over 3000 entries – so absolutely top class.

Since we last met, I unveiled a comprehensive plan for a new courthouse to be built opposite the police station on the corner of Ladbroke and Wilson Sts. and it has attracted a lot of interest. We are meeting with the Premier later this week to discuss the matter and I am hopeful we can end up with a strategic review of the CBD that will not only keep the court house downtown but also strengthen the entire area.

The state government's COVID-19 Business Impact Support Program Round 3 opens at 2pm Wednesday. There is a little bit of financial support for businesses who have had a reduction in turnover due to COVID-19 of 30% or more between 15 February and 14 March 2022 so if that has affected your business go to the Business Tasmania [website](#) to apply.

Our Breakfast Networking Sessions recommence this Wednesday at The Beach Hotel and we start off with Ross Graham presenting *Talking Dementia*. This disease affects many Australians and Ross will give us a very thorough overview about the causes and symptoms of dementia, prevention and living with dementia.

We have a good line-up of speakers set for the next two months and urge you to support these events as they provide a great networking opportunity with fellow members, guests and speakers. Please remember to RSVP if you are attending as we need to set numbers for catering. [RSVP here](#).

We commence the third course in our *Helping Burnie Work* program this week and I want to thank those members who have made work experience positions available – it really helps the participants get used to working and already we have placed people in full time work.

I will be holding our March General Meeting at the RSL Club at 6pm this Wednesday – I hope you are able to join us.

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

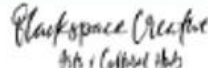
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