

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – May 2022**

The federal election is just days away and the result looks to be very close. We can only hope that a stable government is formed which provides strong leadership into the future as nothing frightens small businesses more than instability.

The highlight of the next few weeks is the *2022 State Budget Roadshow* which culminates in a dinner in the Town Hall on Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Treasurer, Deputy Premier Michael Ferguson will provide an overview of the budget he will hand down the previous day. He will be accompanied by the Premier Jeremy Rockliff who will participate on the Q&A session. Tickets are available online until May 22<sup>nd</sup> via [Cradle Tickets](#). I urge you to get your tickets in the next few days as we only have another 20 available.

I welcome new members, Kerein Willoughby from Burnie Bayside Chiropractic and Adrian Feltham of Wynyard Bowls Club (Bronze member). Kerein has joined us for two breakfasts, and we hope to meet with Adrian very soon.

I am pleased to advise we are the recipient of a \$9860 + GST grant from the state government via Business Tasmania under the Regional Chambers of Commerce Collaboration and Business Development Fund. Our application covers the redevelopment and enhancement of our current ticketing application *Cradle Tickets*. Our aim is to develop *Cradle Tickets* to be a viable commercial product that can be offered to other chambers and not for profit organisations around Tasmania. This will provide cheaper ticketing for these organisations and also provide a small revenue stream for us – everybody wins.

This week we engaged two interns to assist in developing our IT infrastructure. One will be assigned to *Cradle Tickets* and the other to our website. The interns are provided free of charge for 240 hours over approximately 10 weeks and largely operate remotely with weekly supervision assessments.

*Helping Burnie Work* continues to get long term unemployed folk into work experience and jobs. We have had terrific feedback from job agencies and the participants themselves as to the benefits of the courses. We had hoped to have our fourth and final course commence this week but unfortunately due to the changeover to the new *Workforce Australia* scheme on July 1 there is little interest from some of the job agencies due to staff changes (to new WFA agencies) or out of the industry plus the impact of COVID on their operations. We continue to have dialogue with the DESE who are sympathetic to our situation (we are not an isolated example) and are actively working on an alternate path.

We have tendered for a grant to provide another four courses for the 2022/23 period and are confident we have a strong case based upon the results we have achieved over the last 2-3 years.

Our breakfast sessions continue to attract good speakers and good attendance. Last week Bel Lynch from Council provided an update on the forthcoming Council budget – this consultation process is being provided to the general community in four sessions in coming weeks.

Next week we have Danielle Kidd from West North West Working – the regional jobs hub for the North West and West Coasts plus King Island. It provides a broker style relationship between employers and the unemployed. Danielle will be providing an introduction to the organisation and explaining how we can get involved.

At the June 8<sup>th</sup> breakfast we will be hearing from *Ellis Richmond* regarding *Sustainability in a Local Business*. Jess Richmond heads up an exciting new consultancy business in Burnie that I predict will be highly successful – it is already the fastest growing business in Burnie.

In early July we will be hearing from the CEO of TasRail Steven Dietrich.

Next week is a busy week culminating in the State Budget Roadshow dinner but starts off with a presentation of *Burnie 2.0* to Her Excellency The Governor Barbara Baker. This is a great opportunity to provide exposure to our activities at a senior level.

I will be holding our May General Meeting at the RSL Club at 6pm this Wednesday 18/05 and hope you are able to join us.

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

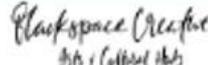
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