

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

Last month was a relatively quiet month; no breakfasts as we decided to cancel them until the latest COVID outbreak subsides. Numbers are decreasing almost daily, and I expect that they will recommence in mid-September. We have some really good speakers just raring to go!

I represent BNW on the Board of West North West Working that presented at a breakfast in May via Danielle Kidd. I am pleased to advise that WNWW has recruited well and has commenced engagement in many parts of the region with local contact points – they are establishing strong relationships with employers and creating a good database of available positions.

You will be aware that UTAS now operates the Makers building at West Park. The property will be undergoing internal modifications early in the New Year. It will soon house staff from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) including a lab plus in Q3 2023 a business incubator and accelerator centre run by *Enterprize* under a grant received by Cradle Coast Authority. *Enterprize* has employed Jarred Ranson to promote the facility and he will be speaking at a breakfast to update us on the aim of the facility and how we can interact with it to support new start-ups and existing businesses branching off in new directions.

Later this week I will be attending the north west Tasmanian Jobs and Skills Roundtable to be held by the ALP. The roundtables (3 in Tasmania) will bring together employers, unions, industry groups and civil society to tackle these issues head on. These events will feed into Labor's Federal Jobs and Skills Summit which will be held in Canberra on the 1st and 2nd of September.

Last week Department of Justice officers consulted with those who submitted EOIs for the relocation of the Burnie courthouse. Feedback from two independent sources is that the decision is still nine months away as full financial analysis will be done on all three sites. Hurry up and wait.....

Local government elections will be held in October. Nominations open September 5 for two weeks with polls opening October 3-25. We will be hosting candidate forums in both Wynyard and Burnie so voters can become better acquainted with those "putting their hand up". The government has introduced compulsory voting for local elections, and it will be interesting to see what effect that has on the makeup of Council.

Our AGM is this Wednesday at 7:00pm (following our monthly General Meeting) and if you or one of your colleagues would like to join our Executive team to help guide

us through the next year, please let me know. In the last two years way too much has been done by way too few – we need more support from the membership to continue the momentum we have developed.

If you cannot join us for the General Meeting feel free to submit any questions or initiatives, you have directly to me via email.

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

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