

September 20th, 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – September 2022

The last week of August was hectic. We attended a forum for cruise ship volunteers and heard of the forthcoming season which has almost 50,000 passengers arriving in Burnie. TasPorts are supplying buses to move the visitors from the port up to Civic Plaza for dispersal into the CBD. That evening I attended a hydrogen industry forum in Launceston and was excited to hear of the money being invested in this industry worldwide and how Tasmania is seen to be a viable supplier of green hydrogen into the European market.

The following evening, I went to a meeting of Advance West North West that featured the Hon. Michael Ferguson plus TAFE CEO Grant Dreher addressing questions regarding the workforce requirements of the Westcoast Renewable Energy project at Whaleback Ridge and other renewables projects in the region. We need to have thousands of workers trained for this industry of the future and TAFE is making a big effort to meet the needs of industry.

I attended the opening of new facilities at the local office of RACT and was most impressed that they have hired 12 new staff to provide teleservices from the local call centre. Keeping these services local is a real bonus for Tasmanians.

If you are on social media, you will know it is election season.

Nominations are in for the Council elections and there is a field of 14 for Councillor, 6 for Mayor and 4 for Deputy Mayor in Burnie and 14 for Councillor, 4 for Mayor and 3 for Deputy Mayor in Wynyard. Postal ballot packs votes will be sent out to arrive between October 3rd to 5th and polling closes October 25th.

Candidate forums will be held at the Town Hall in Burnie at 6pm on October 5th and at the Wynyard Theatre on October 1st at 2pm. The forums will be livestreamed and available after on our YouTube channel.

All candidates will be given an opportunity to present their credentials and will be asked random questions taken from email, social media plus from the floor.

Our Breakfast Networking Sessions are back with Aaron Meldrum, Youth Pathway Coordinator at Burnie Works presenting to us on Wednesday September 28th at The Beach Hotel. Aaron will be speaking about a scheme that supports young employees in the first 12 weeks of their employment.

A further five breakfasts are scheduled for the rest of 2023. Representatives from TCCI, *Enterprize*, Avebury mine, Qantas and TasRail are locked in.

I wrote to the Attorney General regarding the site selection process of the new courthouse and received a reply advising that the evaluation of the three proposed sites will take six months to complete so hopefully we can expect a decision around February next year.....

At our recent AGM the following were elected.

President Ian Jones
Secretary Justin McErlain (VP)
Treasurer Ant Dry (VP)
Executive Dennis Austin
 Michael Cannon
 Ken Dorsey
 Cyndia Hilliger
 Rebecca Luck
 Veronica Terry
 Carol Anne Thacker

I thank the membership for their support of myself and the executive team.

It's footy finals season and it has been an exciting few weeks. Less exciting to the public is the cost of the proposed stadium in Hobart – there doesn't seem to be very much support for the idea on the north west coast.

We are tightening up on our financial management and are now doing our own BAS work – our thanks to David Elphinstone for supporting us in this task over the last few years.

I hope you can join us at the meeting and possibly stay on for a meal with other members.

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

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