

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

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

Council elections are completed, and we congratulate those councillors that were elected. Our new Mayor Teeny Brumby will be sworn in on Tuesday and is keen to engage with Business Northwest and has initiated a meeting with myself for next week.

Our Breakfast Networking Sessions have really “kicked into gear” lately. We heard from Jarred Ranson of *Enterprize* regarding his activities to encourage start-up businesses and develop a business incubator to be located at Makers in West Park in 2023. We also participated in an event to help assist *Enterprize* to promote its capabilities a week later.

Last Wednesday we hosted John Lamb of Mallee Resources, operator of the Avebury nickel mine at Zeehan. Nickel is in high demand for batteries in EVs and courtesy of our hydro power Avebury is the only true green nickel being mined internationally.

Next week we host Prof. Anna Shillibeer of UTAS presenting “*Artificially*” *Intelligent Businesses: Future Proofing Regional Development*. A week later, on November 30<sup>th</sup> we have Aaron Meldrum presenting *Engaging and Keeping Young Employees*. This session was postponed from September.

A week later on December 7<sup>th</sup> we have our final session for the year featuring TasRail executives presenting on their current and future activities. They have a major project (\$64m) at Burnie Port with the development of a new bulk ore loader to replace aging infrastructure.

I thank those members and guests who regularly support these events and really thank Michael Cannon and Justin McErlain for their support in running them. I have three companies lined up for events starting again in February and assure you we will once again have interesting sessions for you.

At short notice (six days) we were asked to arrange for Minister Barnett to meet with local businesses to discuss the *Project Marinus* announcement. We put together a breakfast including Marinus CEO Bess Clarke and had almost 40 people attend. I received special thanks from the Minister for success of the event – he was amazed at the frequency of our events and that we livestream them.

Walking through the Plaza Arcade you will notice that the TV Shop has moved into the shop formerly occupied by *Burnie Innovation Hub*. As part of our *Renew Burnie* program we moved the hub into our offices at Shop 2. The scheme is working well as we now have three (previously empty) shops fully leased out and another close to being leased.

This week members of the BNW Executive are meeting with senior execs of HIF which is proposing the \$1B eco-fuel plant at Hampshire. This is a one-of-a-kind development for Australia so we are doing everything we can to support HIF's bid to get the necessary approvals.

I was able to secure a large number of free circus tickets and last week over sixty people were able to attend - we thank Weber Bros for their support of the local business community and urge everyone to go and enjoy a night under the big top.

Cruise ships are back and making a positive contribution to our local economy with several retailers telling me of the extra sales they are receiving from our visitors. The new "reception" area in Civic Plaza seems to be working well and we have had some great feedback on the two-sided information kiosk we developed and installed to show visitors the highlights of Burnie and provide detailed information about the city that they can download to their phone to assist them in their ramblings. Once again well done to our resident tech guru Justin McErlain.

I hope you can join us at the meeting this Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> and possibly stay on for a meal with other members. Perhaps we can take a walk over to the Plaza and have a demo of the kiosk.

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

