

# MINUTES



## Business Northwest

### General Meeting

17/05/2023

Held at RSL

Start time 6:01:00 PM Elapsed  
End time 6:47:16 PM 0:46:16

1.00 Welcome

2.0 Attendees

I Jones, J McErlain, Steve Kons, D Hodgetts, G Atkinson, P Roberts, A Dry, S Overland, G Simpson, T Brumby, J Whiteley

3.0 Apologies

M Cannon

Note

New member: Paul Roberts (Compliance Health & Safety) - gave intro.

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Note</i>
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4.00 Confirmation of minutes

<i>S Overland</i>	<i>D Hodgetts</i>	Carried	
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4.10 Business arising

5.00 President's Report

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>T Brumby</i>	<i>D Hodgetts</i>	Carried	

Comment

A lot of instability with stadium & government. Talked with Devonport Chamber people at their breakfast and they're concerned about the impact on Tasmania's economy. The worst possible result could be an early election & we end up with a hung parliament. Economy is dodging along, but not great. Myself and Dave Race concerned if that happens spending may freeze up and things won't happen as expected in the business community. I'm at a TCCI meeting tomorrow in Burnie, so I'll push things there to push back on the government to get some stability in precedence.

We welcome Des Hodgetts and Josh Whiteley as new executives of Business Northwest.

**Table Cape Project Update by Justin** - the project will launch June 30th with a function at Wonders of Wynyard, then will move on to the lighthouse projection Moonlight Stories. Will run for the whole month of July on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays - 2 shows per night. The touch tables & VR will be at Wonders of Wynyard during July.

School attendance issues - spoke with Rodney from Burnie Works & discussed strategies, including employers requiring applicants to supply school attendance. If kids know they'll be required to supply this when applying for jobs, hopefully it will push them to attend school more often. If anyone has other ideas, I'd be happy to hear them. Another issue is the people employing students are working them long & late hours, which affects students' school performance. Need to ask employers to consider the effect work hours have on their student employees. It happens more in hospitality and fast food industries. Justin: low staff rates, so offering opportunities to anyone & they're taking the jobs.

Next Wednesday (24th) after our breakfast, I'm going to London for 4 weeks, so call Justin.

6.00 Treasurer's Report  
Per Report

BoUs Account	BoUs Investment
Promotions account	PayPal \$0.00
Table Cape Experience	Float
CCOM account	
Helping Burnie Works	

	<b>Moved</b>	<b>Seconded</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Note</b>	
					3 current projects - promotions, Renew Burnie & the ticketing system.
<b>7.00 Communication</b>	<b>A Dry</b>	<b>J Whiteley</b>	Carried		
<b>7.01</b> • Inward					Nothing much
<b>7.02</b> • Outwards					
<b>7.03</b> • Media					
<b>7.04 Membership update</b>					Apart from latest member, no changes.
<b>8.00 General Business</b>					S Overland: trouble with anti-social behaviour from young people around the Multi-Storey carpark. Discussing with TasPolice, decided to put some security guards in there for 2 weeks. Had cleaners, staff, community members threatened. These are kids who are truants - who aren't going to school. Looking at some infrastructure solutions.
<b>8.01 Breakfast sessions</b>					Only one breakfast since the last meeting - Samuel Johnson from <i>Love Your Sister</i> on May 3. Thank you to G Simpson for arranging that at such short notice. The TAFE people pulled out. Sam has a program called 'Sam's 1000' where he's calling for members of the business community to make a monthly commitment to fund precision medicine for cancer. Something we should think about getting involved in & other chambers. It's about \$600 per year. Discussion. Proposal to donate \$600 per year to Sam's 1000. <b>Moved:</b> Justin. <b>Seconded:</b> A Dry. <b>Carried.</b> Breakfast next Wednesday (24th) with Derek Charge the new CEO of Hellyer Distillery. 2 weeks later (June 7) we have Lesley Mackay from The Smith Family. Several lined up after that - Brigid Wilkinson from COTA (June 21), Racheal Cuevas (July 5) from Southern Cross Austereo. Break for the last half of July & early August. After that we've got Elisha Perry from VXT - a training organisation primarily focused on the hospitality industry.
<b>8.02 Events</b>					Annual state budget roadshow dinner happening Friday 26th May at the Paranapple. Get tickets by May 19th. Good chance to network with local politicians. About \$65-\$75 for members.
<b>8.03 Chamber Alliance</b>					No update.
<b>8.04 Promotions</b>					
<b>8.05 Tourism</b>					Update by J McErlain: Tourism still holding up. April figures are pretty strong. Many projects on at this end of the state, so there are a lot of people coming in and out for those. Dairy & Agricultural are still doing pretty well. People are still travelling. There's been a bit of a cut back on the flights entering the state to Burnie, Devonport & Launceston airports. Coming back from NZ, flights were still pretty full. I Jones: Dave Race said Devonport airport numbers are back up to just below pre-covid. J McErlain: even for May, we're on par with last year and last year was a good year. It is last minute bookings, etc. Need more small events to engage tourists, particularly around the weekends. It's good to see more supply being built in Burnie & hopefully some more supply will start to come along the Coast, because an issue is there isn't enough accommodation.
<b>8.06 Retail / Real Estate / Business / Performing Arts / Agriculture</b>					<b>Agriculture - G Atkinson</b> Showground development, sowing grass, making progress. Quite a few projects going on up there. <b>Josh Whiteley</b> Larger infrastructure projects are starting to suck resource. RESI space is slowing down. I Jones: I heard roofing has become an issue because some of the roofing companies have lost people or are scaling back operations. Got all of these wonderful projects coming over the next 3-5 years. Workforce is a problem. J McErlain: Not enough accommodation. Discussion. J Whiteley: DAs slowing from high - back to pre-covid numbers.

## 8.07 GENERAL BUSINESS

### **T Brumby**

The Burnie Arts & Functions Centre refurbishment has begun; will be finished by June 2024. Gateway Project - received \$1.25 million from state government to enhance Burnie's gateway. Ian & I attended a CBD urban plan meeting today. Council presiding over budget & allocations. Public meeting next week endorsing the draft budget. 2nd year of giving the community a chance to provide feedback on the budget. Hopeful it will pass next week. We have a significant sum allocated for the CBD rejuvenation.

Meeting with the band shortly, hoping for resolution. I was contacted by Vincent Funerals & they intend to light up their tree. They're grateful of Justin and Ian and the help they've provided them. Council can assist them in finding a grant to apply for. In CBD & Gateway Project meeting talked about Coathanger Bridge being lit. Eager to hear stories from businesses who are rejuvenating and growing. My Facebook page runs a narrative of renewing Burnie, so I welcome any of those stories.

### **I Jones**

David Pease & I did a piece today 'On the Couch' talking about the beautification of Burnie. Discussed vacant shops & how we compare with the rest of the world, and the responsibilities business owners have in keeping shops presentable. Some social media action around a few town buildings - the Mallee Grill building has flaking paint and the old sinklines supermarket (Upper Burnie) looks derelict. Unless presenting a security/fire risk, there's nothing much council can do. T Brumby: met with the owners of the Mallee Grill. They have money allocated to repaint, but can't find a painter.

### **T Brumby**

Another point: Council will be looking at their assets within the city over the next 6 months. Will map community usage of assets. Will report data in the coming months and determine if any assets need to be disposed of. Encompasses buildings & land. Des Hodgetts: interesting the sale of the Camdale block went through without anyone at council speaking to the motion. Discussion.

### **P Roberts - Health & Safety**

Looking at psychosocial injury and how it's morphed its way into Health & Safety regulations. Surprised 3 businesses working with had no policies, unprepared for social injury claims. I'm going to run a seminar for employers in about 3 weeks. Psychosocial injuries through workers compensation NSW is their highest cost and 3/5 workers never return to the workforce. Q: how many employees were in those organisations? P Roberts: One had 17 employees, one had 35 and one had 7. The one with 7 had more of an idea with what was going on with their workers than the other two. I thought employers need more information about how to develop some policies and procedures. And more for health & safety so that it's controlled rather than just waiting for that inevitable claim to come. Will advertise the workshops on social media, etc. May say something about it at the next breakfast. Will run 2 - 1 in Wynyard. But I'm certainly happy to come to Burnie. I Jones: We can advertise in our newsletter.

### **A Dry**

Going into a very quiet period - closing down for June to give volunteers a rest. Lost our general manager. He's been there for 7 years and done a fantastic job. Working on replacing him.

Looking at a few projects to generate more revenue. We're hoping to make [the garden] bigger and better - even more of an attraction than it is. T Brumby: The Rhododendron Garden won major funding grant for an Autumn Spectacular. Discussion.

Looking at putting on a sculpture competition. Early days. Discussed with TasArts yesterday. This project could economically benefit the region - it will attract people into town. There's a lot of work to be done. Going into partnership with Sculpture Tasmania - I had to join the board to get the partnership. Have written to Burnie City Council and suggested they help with the acquisition prize - yet to receive a response. TasArts tells us we've got a good chance at winning funding towards it. Means we'll spend much of 2023 preparing and hopefully do it in 2024. T Brumby: can you tell us about the Autumn Spectacular? How many people did you get through, how much money did you raise? A Dry: This year we didn't promote it as best we could. Got a bit more funding. Fantastic day. It can become a huge attraction - hoping to make it bigger & better. Parking problem solved by using showgrounds area for parking. Discussion.

**S Overland**

I Jones: How's the the determination of the cruise ship drop-off point? S Overland: Haven't got to that. Busy doing budgets and end of financial year stuff. We'll get to it, but I don't have a decision yet.

I Jones: You were talking earlier about the multi-storey carpark. I know we had some security issues - people trying to sleep in stairwells and things like that. Is that still happening? S Overland: That's sort of resolved at the moment, it's the youth issue now.

**A Dry**

Acquisition Prize discussion. Idea of the acquisition prize is we have this sculpture competition at the garden - the winner gets moved to the beachfront, so - in a few years' time - you've got a whole series of winning sculptures along the beachfront that people will come to see. J McErlain: Christchurch holds a sculpting competition every year where they drop off giant blocks of sandstone and artists sculpt them over 2 weeks - sculpters from all around the world. Some might get sold and the others end up along New Brighton which is a beachfront area, and they're all in amongst the sand dunes. They naturally wear down over time, but they look good. Depending on how it's put together, you could certainly have these things all over the place. As long as you're pretty prescriptive about what it's going to be. A Dry: We've got to speak to a curator.

**J McErlain**

Positive things are happening. Truck wash is underway, tender documents will go out shortly - it's taken a while, but we've got there.

Meeting closed 6:47PM