

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Another financial year draws to a close and I hope it has been a good one for you.

I am writing this report from London as I have been on holidays for the last few weeks and Justin has been busy representing us at events. I have also visited Edinburgh and Paris during my trip and can advise that inflation and high prices are not confined to Burnie – petrol especially; with UK prices around A\$2.76/ℓ and A\$3.00/ℓ in Paris. Prices for basic food items are more expensive than Tasmania and dining out is way more expensive although the amount of people dining in cafes and restaurants all over the streets of Paris was surprising (and amazing).

This month we welcome two new members – Paul Roberts of *Investigations, Risk Assessment & Training* (Bronze) and Michael Rowlands of *Wealth Financial* based in Smithton. Paul has migrated from “the big island” and Michael will be well known to many of you.

Hearty congratulations to our own Dennis Austin for winning the *Richard Davies OAM Award* at the National Caravan Industry awards a couple of weeks ago. Dennis is also a past recipient of the *Eric Hayman OAM Award for Excellence* and has provided outstanding service to the industry over many years.

I am pleased to advise that Business Northwest has been awarded a grant of \$50,000 from the Dept of State Growth to develop a feasibility study exploring how virtual reality can be used to meet the needs of workers and trainees within specific sectors and skills. This project is in collaboration with UTAS and builds on the work we have done with UTAS on the VR components of the Table Cape project.

Burnie City Council is conducting Round 2 of community consultations for the development of the Strategic Plan from July 3<sup>rd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> – feedback can be provided via its website. Council General Manager Simon Overland will speak at a breakfast networking session on July 19<sup>th</sup> on the development of the 20-year plan.

At a breakfast networking session in late May we heard from Derek Charge, CEO of Hellyer Road Distillery. Derek explained the history of the distillery and outlined the growth expectations of the Board and a public share offering they had in the marketplace.

Two weeks ago, we had Lesley Mackey, Tasmanian General Manager of *The Smith Family* speaking about its 100-year history and the great work it does in supporting disadvantaged children. Lesley spoke of the '*Growing Careers*' Project and how local businesses can support this work.

This week's breakfast networking session features Brigid Wilkinson of COTA (Council of the Aging Tasmania) about the value of aged personnel to your business. “Ageism is stereotyping, discrimination and mistreatment based solely upon age. When directed towards older people, it comes from negative attitudes and beliefs about what it means to be older.” EveryAGE Counts. [RSVP here](#)

Justin and Cyndia have been working diligently on finalising the *Sensing Table Cape: seeing, hearing, feeling [table.cape]*– this has been a two-year effort that

was regularly side-tracked by bureaucracy, but they have eventually triumphed over the adversity and the official launch is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The project involves the projection of *Moonlight Stories* – a 20-minute light projection onto the Table Cape lighthouse. “*Moonlight Stories*” provides a visual platform of winter projections of artwork under the moonlight and the stars, imparting knowledge from the artist to the audience. Moonlight represents an important cultural touchstone to the local Northwest tribe, the Tommeginner who travelled seasonally across the Northwest, including Table Cape. The show will “screen” from 1-30th July 2023, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays. 5.30pm session /6.30 pm session.

We urgently require volunteers to assist with manning the shows during July- Please get in touch with [social@businessnw.com.au](mailto:social@businessnw.com.au) to register your interest. Thank you to those that have come forward so far!

The *Table Cape Glass Elevator* and *Walking with Giants* project components will be displayed at The Wonders of Wynyard throughout July.

We have officially joined [Sam’s 1000](#) – an initiative we discussed when Samuel Johnson presented the concept at our breakfast in May. The program involves 1000 businesses across Australia regularly contributing funds to help provide precision medicine to cancer patients. Precision medicine is defined as medical care designed to optimize efficiency or therapeutic benefit for particular groups of patients, especially by using genetic or molecular profiling.

I encourage other businesses to get involved in this worthy project – please contact me for further details.

Our next General Meeting is Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm in the Burnie RSL Club and I urge you to attend. (I will be flying 17,000kms to attend so I hope I will see you there.)

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

**PLATINUM MEMBERS**



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