

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 15th May 2023

A week is a long time in politics, and we have been suddenly plunged into a minority government over the AFL stadium issue. Business craves stability so I worry that we will go through a period of political uncertainty that will potentially harm the recovery of small business in the state. The state budget will be handed down next week - we need a government that can carry out the plan that Treasurer Ferguson outlines next Thursday. Let's hope for some stimulus for small business unlike the federal budget delivered last week that did not contain a lot for our sector.

We welcome Des Hodgetts and Josh Whitley joining the executive team – I am sure they will make a great contribution to Business Northwest. Des is a former Burnie Councillor with lots of community experience and Josh is a senior Project Director with The APP Group responsible for delivering major construction projects.

The Table Cape project will be going live on June 30th with a launch night of the event *Moonlight Stories* featuring a projection onto the lighthouse of work by Caleb Nichols- Mansell. *Moonlight Stories* is one event of several experiences that are being launched in the *Sensing Table Cape* project, part of Tourism Tasmania's winter programme.

I was surprised to hear at a recent meeting that truancy from high school has become a significant issue in recent times. One method that was proposed to me to help to minimise truancy is for employers to require all applicants to supply a school attendance report. This is available from the school upon request of the student - the theory being that if a job applicant knows that employers will be asking for this report then the student will be less likely to be truant. Please let me know if you can add this to your recruiting process.

Just the single breakfast since our last meeting. At short notice due to a cancellation Giovanna Simpson arranged a videoconference with Samuel Johnson of *Love Your Sister*. Samuel is a renowned actor and entertainment having a Gold Logie on his mantelpiece. He spoke of his new program [Sam's 1000](#) which aims to get 1000 businesses making a monthly commitment to donate to fund [Precision Medicine](#) for cancer patients. This technology is quite revolutionary, and I believe this is a program well worth investing in so recommend you investigate it.

Next week's breakfast (24/5) features Derek Charge, CEO of Hellyers Road Distillery who will be telling us of the recent developments and future plans for the iconic distillery – and no, I don't know if there will be free samples! Two weeks later on June 7th Lesley Mackey from The Smith Family will be speaking about its 100-year history and the great work it does in supporting disadvantaged children.

A reminder of the annual State Budget Roadshow dinner that is being hosted by *Living City Business* at the paranple centre on May 26th. The state Treasurer Michael Ferguson will be speaking to the budget handed down the previous evening. Tickets are available [here](#).

Next week I am off to London for four weeks to visit family and am really looking forward to the holiday – in my absence please contact Justin McErlain via email at admin@businessnw.com.au Our office in the Plaza Arcade will be open from 10-3 Tuesday to Thursday -with Katelyn Rolfe in attendance.

Our next General Meeting is Wednesday May 17th at 6pm in the Burnie RSL Club and I urge you to attend.

I hope you can join us and make a contribution.

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

PLATINUM
SPONSORS:



GOLD
SPONSORS:



SILVER
SPONSORS:



BRONZE
SPONSORS:

