

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 17th July 2023

The highlight for me of the past month was the launch of our *Sensing Table Cape* project at Wonders of Wynyard (WoW) on June 30th. Four exhibits at WoW plus a lightshow on the lighthouse at Table Cape have amazed and delighted many locals and we have even had a couple that drove up from Hobart to see the lightshow and then drove home!

The project was possible due to a \$405,000 grant from Austrade, and we were ably supported by West by North West and UTAS. Justin McErlain and Cyndia Hilliger have done an amazing job to deliver this project and we hope to be able to do more viewings once the season ends at the end of July. I have done a couple of nights at the cape and although it is very cold and windy after dark up there the enjoyment the crowds get makes it all worthwhile. We have used Tasmanian artists and other local resources wherever possible, so I urge you to visit WoW to see the VR and interactive exhibits we have developed. On the cape there may be some tickets for the lightshow available late in the month plus there is a sound walk created by renowned Tasmanian performer Rachel Myers.

Our breakfast networking sessions have been providing interesting content. This Wednesday we have Council General Manager Simon Overland speaking on the Development of the Strategic Plan followed by the Deputy Prime Minister Hon Richard Marles in his role as Minister for Defence presenting "*Sovereign Defence Industry and future Security for Australia*". Currently there are only 4 tickets remaining [BOOK HERE](#). It will be livestreamed if you miss out.

We welcome Michael Gates of Print Domain upgrading to Silver membership. Michael is a strong supporter of our breakfast networking sessions and appreciates the networking value of the breakfasts, not only are they a great social outing but can be good to generate new business and strengthen existing relationships, so I urge more people to join Business northwest and take avail of these sessions. Aside from that we can provide free WHS evaluations of your workplace and support in HR issues through our link to TCCI.

To prosper business needs stability at all levels of government and we can only hope that at the state level we get some stability soon as recent events in relation to the proposed AFL stadium have divided opinions and now with the change in approach to the local government review there is an expectation of an early election. Our region is set for huge expansion in the renewable energy sector and instability makes large investors nervous. I attended an energy industry event featuring Minister Bowen two weeks ago and several "large players" expressed concern to me about slow progress.

Last week I attended a tour of the Forico facility at Hampshire and was impressed to hear of the contribution made to the local economy. Forico has interesting plans to integrate with the renewable energy industry developments in the area and I hope to secure Paul Sturzaker to do a presentation at a breakfast later this year.

Our *Renew Burnie* project welcomes artisan jeweller Knut Mueller to Shop 7 in Plaza Arcade (formerly Sri Batik). Next door there is a pop-up fashion store and with the completion of the renovation of the Joyce's Jeweller shop next month the arcade will be getting back to its brilliant best.

We are actively involved in the Council CBD Reference Group which is charged with improving the CBD and are in the process of evaluating options for the Gateway Project and seeking input from the public. [Have your say here!](#)

Burnie Council is also seeking your input on Round 2 of development of *Burnie's Strategic Plan and Vision* and you can review the process so far and [provide your feedback here.](#)

Our next General Meeting is Wednesday July 19th at 6pm in the Burnie RSL Club and I urge you to attend.

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

PLATINUM MEMBERS



Burnie Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.,
operating as **BUSINESS NORTHWEST**
ABN: 77 896 127 563
PO Box 139 Burnie, Tasmania 7320
P: 0412 061 501
E: business@businessnw.com.au
W: businessnw.com.au



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