

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

The highlight for me of the past month was our Breakfast Networking Session hosting the Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles (and of course Council GM Simon Overland!).

The Minister spoke of his visit to Jayben in Cooe on the previous day and how he impressed he was with their best in world technology on drone launch and retrieval systems. The announcement of the Land 400 contract for Elphinstone Ltd the following week really rounded out a great July for the region and cemented our reputation as a defence industry manufacturing centre.

The *Table Cape Experience* has continued to receive accolades and draw good crowds up on the Cape and also at Wonders of Wynyard where the queue to use the "Glass Elevator" VR exhibit stretched out the front door some days! We extended the event due to bad weather forcing us to cancel some shows and it concluded last Sunday when we had around 50 guests at the early session.

With so many locals away on holidays we have put our breakfast events into recess until August 30<sup>th</sup> when we have Alicia Perry from XVT talking about training especially in the tourism and hospitality space – a must for all our café, restaurant and hotel owners.

In recent weeks we have been inundated with Ministerial visits, aside from Richard Marles we have met with Chris Bowen at the meeting of state climate ministers, Andrew Lee speaking to NFPs and community groups and Julie Collins, Minister for Small Business. Minister Collins understands that businesses, like their customers are doing it tough but there are several measures in place to assist with energy bills albeit not a significant amount for larger businesses.

There has been a big spike in anti-social behaviour in the CBD in recent weeks with youths running rampant climbing onto rooves, being aggressive and generally rude/inconsiderate. This has reached a point where locals do not want to come into the CBD and some retailers are considering moving out. The council has been leading the way in meeting with the Police Commissioner and setting up a group meeting with ourselves, police, schools and other community organisations to try to develop measures to eliminate this behaviour.

Justin and I recently attended the AGM of the *Friends of Burnie Penguins* where Justin presented what we have done in the past year at the penguin centre. We are waiting for the UTAS development near the penguin centre to be completed as that will provide us with a reliable internet service to reestablish our live streaming of the penguins in the burrows and provide more exposure to an iconic tourism asset for the region.

Government instability is an issue of concern at the moment. The government's retreat from local government reform was disappointing and a lot of good work by Sue Smith and her team appears to be wasted.

Recent discussions regarding the cost increase for Marinus throwing the project's viability onto question is very concerning as we view this as essential for the future economy prosperity of the state. Failing to progress the Marinus project could lead to the abandonment of several major renewable energy projects that will employ hundreds in both construction and operation phases. We already have strained energy capacity and need Marinus for long term security.

Our next General Meeting is Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Burnie RSL Club and I urge you to attend as it will be followed by our AGM. If you want to nominate yourself or another to join our Executive team, please email me. It will start around 7pm or upon conclusion of the General Meeting.

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](mailto:business@businessnw.com.au)  
W: [businessnw.com.au](http://businessnw.com.au)



**GOLD MEMBERS:**



YOUR BUSINESS LOGO HERE

**SILVER MEMBERS:**



YOUR BUSINESS LOGO HERE

YOUR BUSINESS LOGO HERE

YOUR BUSINESS LOGO HERE

**BRONZE MEMBERS:**

