

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 19th September 2023

The new financial year started off well with our Executive meeting being well attended and there was certainly a very positive vibe around it. I recently attended an AICD governance course for NFP organisations and am gradually implementing changes to improve our governance – whilst I do not feel our operations were in any way in violation of member expectations better governance will not hurt the organisation.



The recent Marinus announcement has been well received as most recognise it is a game changer for the region, attracting new industries to relocate here and generating significant export revenue over coming decades. We are collaborating closely with Council to get increased focus by government on the energy projects intended for the region.

Two weeks ago, I was elected as Chair of the recently created *Clean Energy Tasmania* (CET) group. A TCCI initiative; this group's members comprise major renewable energy project proponents and relevant GBEs working in the renewables space. CET will be the unified voice for advocacy on Tasmanian energy matters to relevant State and Federal Government departments, regulators and other relevant organisations.



During recent weeks we have supported a *Burnie Works* initiative "Student Friendly Workplaces" which was designed to prevent our teenage students being rostered onto jobs during school hours, or late at night and during exam times. Businesses are encouraged to pledge to five ideals to support our student workforce. To read more please scan/click the QR code.

Two weeks ago, I was a judge at the *BIG Science Fair* hosted at UTAS campus. The BIG committee organised this event in a very short timeframe and did a terrific job. It featured around 170 entries from students ranging from 10-18yo. The quality of the projects was outstanding, and the ultimate winner Nichola Williams impressed all judges with her project: *Eggsellent Removal of Heavy Metals*.



Breakfast sessions roll on and we had a good presentation from VXT on training options for our workforce and last week Tracy Edington Mackay from the Burnie Community House told us of the great work being done by her team in the Shorewell area.

Next week (27/9) we have Scott Harris CEO of Beacon Foundation speaking on *Brighter Futures Start with Beacon*.



Yesterday I attended the opening of the TasTAFE Agriculture Centre of Excellence at Freer Farm on Mooreville Road. Located on a working farm, the new \$5m farm-based learning centre and surrounds provides training across a range of qualifications including agriculture, dairy, conservation and ecosystem management and horticulture.

Members will have recently received invoices for annual membership renewal; thanks to those who have already paid and a little nudge to those who have not.

Finally, a reminder that the Burnie Show is on October 6 & 7th. Please attend and get behind the dedicated bunch of volunteers that work so hard to make this happen each year.



Our next General Meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday September 18th at 6pm in the Burnie RSL Club and I hope you can join us.

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

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