

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Another busy month at Business Northwest.

Two major events last week; Burnie Show and EVRG spring season opening. The Show was well supported with bigger crowd numbers than last year. The opening of the rhododendron gardens was also well patronised, and visitors enjoyed the revamped tearooms and the expanded plant house which had record sales.

Last Friday I attended the 2023 Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Industry Network event in Launceston. The event was opened by new Energy Minister Nick Duigan (whom I met with early Friday) plus featured proponents of several hydrogen projects including an eco-fuel project by Abel Energy at Bell Bay and video calls to Europe to hear from Flanders Investment and the Port of Rotterdam who have signed MOUs with our state government to investigate supplying green hydrogen to them.

Hydrogen appears to be the preferred energy source for the road, rail and sea freight sectors in Europe and Tasmania is well placed to be a leading international supplier.

Nick Duigan is also the Minister for Small Business and we spoke of the difficulties facing small businesses in our area. He was concerned to hear of the slowdown in retail and hospitality we are experiencing.

Today I head down to Whaleback Ridge to view the site of the massive windfarm site *West Coast Renewable Energy* plans to develop for manufacturing of hydrogen and to hear more of their plans for project developments in Tasmania.

We had an interesting breakfast session last week where Amy Dyer of *Fearless Business Collective* spoke regarding the best ways to use social media in business. I think we all learned some better ways of portraying our businesses on the various platforms.

The breakfast next week (25/10) features our Council General Manager Simon Overland presenting *Making a Better Burnie 2044*. [Get your tickets here.](#)

Over the last six months, the Burnie community was consulted extensively about what difference it wants the council to make in the long-term over the next 20 years. The collective vision is of an exciting future – as a clean, green, economically strong city, known for its natural beauty, its industrial past and for our new forms of making. This community consultation was the highest level of participation and feedback that council has ever experienced to date. And that is why this plan – *Making a Better Burnie 2044* – is written by, and for, the community.

I was very concerned last week about the welfare of our Executive member Dennis Austin, his wife Marilyn and friends that were touring the Middle East and entered Israel. Fortunately, they managed to get out unscathed and last report was that they were cruising around the Greek Islands then back to Athens.

Another member of our exec team, Giovanna is also enjoying holidaying around Greece and Cyprus swimming in the Mediterranean and seeing old friends.

Our [YouTube livestream](#) from the rhododendron gardens has been reinstated by Justin courtesy of new internet comms facilitated by a grant from TasNetworks. See if you can spot one of the resident platypuses!

The [YouTube feed](#) from the penguin centre behind UTAS is now also looking great with several chicks inside the burrows – they were very noisy last night.

We welcome *Bedrock9* as a Silver member. It is a consulting engineering firm based at Camdale and represented by Manager, Gavin Kuipers. I look forward to welcoming Gavin to a breakfast in the near future.

Membership fees are coming in – I would appreciate if businesses could process the payments to us by the end of the month.

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

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

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