



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

2023 is almost done – let's recap our activities.

- We overturned the government's decision to relocate the new courthouse and now look forward to an \$87m signature building in Wilson St.
- Justin and Cyndia delivered the \$400K *Sensing Table Cape* project including an art projection onto the Table Cape lighthouse, the *Walking with Giants* and *Glass Elevator* Virtual Reality exhibits and a great [website](#). UTAS recently presented a paper on this at international science conferences in Sydney and Japan.
- Our strong relationship with Burnie Council continued and we participated in the CBD Reference Group and the Gateway Project plus cooperated in advocacy matters relating to renewable energy late in the year.
- In other advocacy activity we met with federal Minister for Small Business Julie Collins twice, state Ministers Ogilvie and Duigan and Premier Rockliff and made regular appearances in local and state media.
- We partnered with UTAS for the Table Cape project plus a new Virtual Reality project to establish the viability of using VR in industry training in regionally focussed industries.
- Breakfasts continued to play a major part of our networking function as we delivered 22 events - the highlight being the visit by Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles speaking of our defence industry.



Our final two breakfasts featured Paul Sturzaker from Forico and Sonya Stanford from UTAS. Paul spoke of the focus on sustainability in Forico's future and the following week announced a deal with HIF Global for the supply of forestry waste in HIF's eco fuel production. Sonya spoke of the future for the UTAS Cradle Coast campus which coincided with the announcement of 20 places for students to study medicine at the campus from 2024. We will soon have nursing, pharmacy, psychology and medicine available – a real boost for our local health system.

We were fortunate to host Premier Rockliff for lunch in November. Justin hosted the event in my absence and evidently the Premier made an excellent speech, and everyone enjoyed it and the accompanying questions.



I was a guest aboard *The Resilient Lady* of the Virgin Voyages cruise line for its maiden visit to Burnie on Friday. What a magnificent vessel! Not a typical cruise ship it is magnificently appointed, has a great crew and will visit nine times this season.

Unfortunately, there was a massive power outage across the CBD for most of Friday which severely affected our retailers and hospitality members from providing services to locals and cruise ship passengers. Several thousand dollars were lost due to this outage. I wonder what compensation will be offered.

On a brighter note.....our final General Meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday **December 20th at 6pm at our office in the Plaza Arcade** due to the RSL Club being unavailable this week.

I want to thank our executive team which is very strong and has given valuable guidance to help drive our organisation forward. We are the envy of many chambers in the state as we continue to lead the way in advocacy and innovation. Our change to Business Northwest caused some angst four years ago but was the forerunner of many other chambers rebranding to better reflect modern times.

Our office will be closed December 22<sup>nd</sup> till January 2<sup>nd</sup> and I will be returning Jan 16<sup>th</sup>.

I hope you enjoy good Christmas trade, a safe holiday season and am looking forward to an exciting 2024.

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

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