

MINUTES



Business Northwest

General Meeting

15/05/2024

Start time 6:11:00 PM Elapsed

Held at RSL

End time 7:14:00 PM 1 hour 3 minutes

1.00 Welcome

2.0 Attendees

I Jones, J McErlain, T Hohnke, J Packham, M Cannon, S Overland, A Dry, G Simpson, K Kelman, S Kons, T Brumby (phone).

3.0 Apologies

D Hodgetts, J Whiteley, G Pearce, A Leeson, M Leeson, R Jaensch, C Hilliger, D Austin.

Note

New people – Karla Kelman (Leighland Christian School) and Tracey Hohnke (café at Boat Harbour + flower farm).

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Note</i>
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4.00 Confirmation of minutes

<i>G Simpson</i>	<i>J Packham</i>	Carried	
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5.00 President's Report

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Note</i>
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<i>I Jones</i>	<i>G Simpson</i>	Carried	
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Comment

Business is tough - report says 50% of small businesses aren't making money at the moment. *Discussion on inflation & federal treasurer's comments.* D Elphinstone analysis of budget & comment on interstate asset write-off. Attended BCC consultation session on annual plan & budget estimate – only 2 other attendees. *Discussion .* Rate rise unpopular – hope feedback will get it below 6.8%. Ian's tour of Huon Aquaculture. Economic conditions causing stress among small business owners. Mental health support programs available, 'Minding Your Business'. Business advice available for free through Braddon Business Centre.

6.00 Treasurer's Report

BNW Working A/C	\$ 33,154.46	Term Deposit	\$ 51,672.63
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Per Report

BCC Promotions	\$ 35,890.52		
VR Project	\$ 47,285.90	Cradle Coast Market	\$18,316.38
		TOTAL	\$186,319.89

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Note</i>
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<i>A Dry</i>	<i>S Kons</i>	Carried	Will spend VR funds within next 2 weeks. Renewed the term deposit. BCC promotions section includes a lot of other projects.
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7.00 Communication

7.01 • Inward

Normal

7.02 • Outwards

Normal

7.03 • Media

Normal

7.04 Membership update

80 currently.

8.00 General Business

8.01 Breakfast sessions

No breakfast organised for next week. Working on hydro to give us an update on Battery of the Nation. Went to Hydro chairman's dinner last week. Haven't had answer yet. Last BNW hydro presentation was in Sept 2019.

8.02 Events

Permission to Trespass about to start. Wynyard-based. Re-doing tunapri show, limited number of shows because short on funds. Spirited ghost tour. Wendy Page hosting dinners, lunch, astrophotography. Choir singing in Wynyard Masonic Lodge. Events running May – June. Part of Tourism Tas's Off Season campaign. Little bit of cost that Business Northwest will pick up. Because economy has tightened, hard to find sponsors & get funding. Could be last time we run PTT. Lightshow costs 5K. Think a number of NW coast events will suffer over next 12 months. Buy tickets on cradletickets.com. BCC still doing bonfire.

8.02 Chamber Alliance update	Meeting in couple of days.
8.03 Promotions	No update.
8.04 Tourism	<p>J McErlain: Really tough in tourism and hospitality. Many cafes closing. C Hilliger, as chair of NXNW, sits on TICT board & got feedback that medium to large businesses in Tasmania's major cities are now finding 50% of their costs are in rent & associated costs, and they're suffering a 15% downturn in revenue. Really starting to bite. Fall off in spend per head in hospitality. <i>Discussion.</i> Costs are up average of 20% from July 1 2023. Eating into margin.</p> <p>I Jones: Agfest sales down too. <i>Discussion.</i> J McErlain: Hellyer Road selling shares – 2nd capital raising they've done in 12 months, may not be the last. <i>Discussion on rising costs across all sectors.</i> Gentleman's club moving. BCC copping a lot of flack online for lack of tourism/visitor information centre. People ignoring digital tourism facts. Maybe we could relocate the hub to the waterfront in the interim – greater visibility. Putting it somewhere more visible might change people's opinions. Burnie Penguin Centre still getting heaps of people. Penguin tourism large in NZ, rehab centre – people flock to it & pay money. Oamaru has commercial element to penguin visitor centre. Opportunity to do something commercial here. Could pay for rehab side. Could combine rehab & commercial. Is tough for business in NZ too. S Kons: Tourism Tas only focus on Stanley & Cradle. <i>Discussion.</i></p>
8.05 Retail / Real Estate / Business / Performing Arts / Agriculture	<p>S Kons All good.</p> <p>K Kelman School is busy.</p> <p>G Simpson Good, busy. Dance graduation soon. Sold modelling business. Started fundraising. Hope tree will be ready. Pink Up in October, hoping Glenn McGrath will join for masquerade ball. Hair business good. On committee of CBD Action Group with principles happening May 16. Targeting CBD poor behaviour. Quieted down a lot, but still some poor behaviour. Finding many students bus in from Ulverstone & Wynyard. Trying to target them. Usually ages 12–18. Had roundtable 4 weeks ago – went really well, lots of businesses, services & police. <i>Discussion followed on school programs.</i></p> <p>T Brumby 1. Chair of Camp Clayton – costs are greater than income. 2. Courthouse still be to resolved (Feds vs State). Spoke with Attorney General recently about resolution for provision of family circuit. Politics around number of courts – State want 5 with family circuit. Council just wants a resolution. Architects need information for plans. 3. Strategic 20-year plan – taking it around schools, community groups, rotary, school seniors. Well received. Any other community groups that would be worth sharing the plan with? 4. Highlighting Renewable Energy conference at Paranapple in June. I Jones to be a guest speaker. T Brumby on a panel. 5. Met with TasNetworks re transmission lines Hampshire – Burnie. While not currently incorporated for stage 1 upgrades, it's on radar & may be added to stage 1. 6. Budget announcements – regional airport allocation, hope Burnie Airport receives some for upgrades. 7. Camdale sold to JMC (Errol Stewart) – development happening soon. 8. Band rooms allocated to committed group. Announcement in next couple of weeks. 9. Budget consultation. Only 2 people yesterday. Hope to get more. 10. Hosted 3rd roundtable for anti-social behaviour. Smaller action group seeing success. Community-lead solutions. Positive feedback. 11. Urban Plan being released in stages via social media. Public consultations in few weeks. \$17.3M from election. Will share ideas drafted by GHD around CBD rejuvenation. 12. Provider exploring option of 40 additional social/affordable houses in CBD. 13. Motors site sold, development happening soon. 14. South Burnie petrol station & takeaway outlet almost completed – looking better. 15. Ambulance station coming along well. 16. Coastal pathway looking fantastic, many using it, not quite finished. Camdale site development could compliment coastal pathway. 17. Hellyer College – speed limits/safety. Want to encourage State Gov to extend 40km limit to Hellyer College. Opportunity for BCC to talk with minister about extension.</p> <p>A Dry Exceptional Autumn Spectacular. Social media campaign thanks to C Hilliger. Attracted a different crowd & they have returned since then. Busiest May had for long time. Work done, changed garden appearance. Lack of volunteers, had to take on staff. Costs soaring, in excess of revenue. Next year's project to find more revenue streams. Donations appreciated.</p> <p>M Cannon Graphic design pretty well dead. No new businesses for 3 years. Some work for Devonport Regional Gallery. Doing creative writing & writing music, but doesn't pay bills.</p> <p>S Overland Nothing to add.</p>

8.07 GENERAL BUSINESS

J Packham

Library Aid International, made good progress since last meeting. About to share an MAU with Queensland lions clubs & Library Aid International. Reached good relationship. Books moving to Devonport. Saved little bit of money on shipping container, but freight costs similar to estimates last meeting. Sums pretty well covered. Hope shipping container will arrive in PNG by August.

T Hohnke

Interested in mental health TCCI session. *Discussion followed re business, no-shows.*

G Simpson

Citizens of the Year ceremony for Burnie Council next Wednesday evening at 5pm. Free registration. *Discussion on advertising with posters.*

I Jones

Veterans Centre: Veterans and Family Wellness Centre new premises getting ready to go. Tentative booking with minister to come June 13th for official opening, hope to be open by June 1. 4 years progress to get to where we are now. Thanks to Burnie Council for Renew Burnie support. *Discussion.*

Clean Energy: HIF Global had massive cash injection from *Idemitsu* – \$118M – and \$50M from their own internal sources. Guarantees a lot of the production from HIF Global has a customer. Budget friendly – hydrogen \$2 a KG subsidy, Countrywide Hydrogen got \$8M from state gov. Countrywide Hydrogen not setting up in Burnie because TasNetworks couldn't provide electrical infrastructure at Minna Rd.

J McErlain

Minna Road Truckwash should be starting soon. Waiting for building permit. Excavator waiting. Submission to Burnie City Council over rate rises.

K Kelman

June 4th ribbon cutting for Burnie campus expansions 9 – 10:30am. July 4th – Christmas in July event, invitation to the community, coupled with toy drive.

Meeting closed 7:14PM