

# MINUTES



## Business Northwest

### General Meeting

**17/07/2024**

Start time 6:02:00 PM Elapsed

**Held at RSL**

End time 7:25:00 PM **1:23:00**

**1.00 Welcome**

**2.0 Attendees**

I Jones, C Hilliger, J McErlain, D Austin, S Arnold, K Drake, J Packham, M Cannon, D Hodgetts, S Overland, D Pease.

**3.0 Apologies**

R Jaensch, A Dry

**Note**

Ken Drake welcome, representing Marinus Ltd – recent gold sponsor of BNW.

**4.00 Confirmation of minutes**

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Note</i>
<b>J Packham</b>	<b>M Cannon</b>	Accepted	

**5.00 President's Report**

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Note</i>
<b>I Jones</b>	<b>D Hodgetts</b>	Accepted	

**Comment**

*Discussion on president's report.* Financial year passed. Events upcoming – Exit Strategies for Small Business seminar with Business Tasmania & Warren Moore 30 July, Digital Ready Tourism event. Small businesses feeling the pressure – Business Tasmania released Small Business Advice & Financial Guidance Program. (**C Hilliger:** WxNW socials should share it.) Marinus Link joined as gold member & Salvation Army Employment Plus silver member. Justin & Cyndia did great job on Permission to Trespass Table Cape lighthouse light show. *Discussion*. Look at funding for next year. Think people will pay to see the show. Over 1K attendees. Touching to see other organisations & volunteers involved. *Discussion*. If we could get series of events along coast from Devonport - Stanley, could draw enormous amount of people in winter.

**6.00 Financials**

*Discussion.*

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Note</i>
<b>J McErlain</b>	<b>David Pease</b>	Carried	Made a profit this year. Cradle Tickets generated \$10K income. Will work to improve it this year – opportunity for lower cost ticketing platform. Offer it to other chambers & government. Getting project fees. Hiring out projectors. Good position to be in. Will chase more projects when funding opportunities come up. <i>Discussion.</i> Figures are un-audited.

**7.00 Communication**

**7.01** • Inward

Normal

**7.02** • Outwards

Normal

**7.03** • Media

Normal

**7.04 Membership update**

No actual number, but must be in the low 80s. 2 new members just this week.

**8.00 General Business**

**8.01 Breakfast sessions**

Successful breakfast session this morning with Simon Overland. Put video on Burnie Community Facebook noticeboard & got 192 views just this afternoon. Next breakfast is with Shane Crawford – GM of Waratah-Wynyard – in Wynyard at the Bowls Club July 31. Ian to be away. Breakfast with Associate Professor Heinrich Weber August 14 through Clifford Craig Foundation.

**8.02 Chamber Alliance update**

Most spoke about how tight business conditions are state-wide. Spoke to people on King Island – having shipping issues. TCCI Logistics committee to speak to state government about that.

**8.03 Promotions**

No update.

#### 8.04 Tourism

**J McErlain:** Echoing chamber alliance – tough, particularly in café & restaurant segment. Substantial increases in employment costs, electricity – feeling pain. Accommodation – tourist accommodation slight hike in school holidays, but certainly a pull back in spending. Leisure market very weak, our corporate market still strong. Forward bookings pattern changed – all last minute. People booking with 24-48 hour window. Corporates doing it within 2-3 days or people just rock up. Landscape changing. Qantas & Rex – loading all over the place. 11 people on Ian's Saturday morning Qantas flight (50-seater plane). Rex's loading stable enough to make profit, but not records. Must be lot of corporate activity because a lot of private jets flying in/out of Wynyard. Hoping year ahead will improve. Tourism dependant on economy. **C Hilliger:** Lots of exciting projects in pipeline in various stages of funding. Far NorthWest project focused on Dismal Swamp. Getting it investor-ready. Finalising legal documentation for EOIs. *Discussion.* Feasibility study on wave breaker. Have funding for a winter event in West Coast area – looking at ways can do something across whole region. Working in light/projection space. Off Season starting to gain traction in Mainland. Starting to think about federal election & what projects could put forward. Big hero projects – Cradle Mountain visitor experience masterplan. New Spirits – word on street is one will come by Dec. *Berthing discussion.* Looking to put forward smaller projects for funding.

#### 8.05 Retail / Real Estate / Business / Performing Arts / Agriculture

##### **D Pease**

At downward part of retail cycle – question is are we at the bottom or not? Supply chain back to normal (pre-covid). Tough. Hang in, back to basics, keep things tight. *Discussion.* 2nd biggest bookstore also gone under. Both bricks & mortar and online feeling it. *Discussion.*

#### 9.00 GENERAL BUSINESS

##### **D Hodgetts**

Wife as client – going fabulously. Welcome markers sensational (*comments*). Fabulous presentation this morning (*comments*). TasRail question. **S Overland:** Because no longer functioning rail line, now responsibility of state (*comments*). Simplest approach to cover it up. *Discussion.* **D Hodgetts:** Foster discussion with minister Abetz. *Discussion.* Courts complex – any update on timing of tenders? **S Overland:** Vague & nebulous. *Discussion.* No movement? **C Hilliger:** Could BNW push it a little? **D Hodgetts:** New hotel – open end Aug/Sept.

##### **M Cannon**

Transition phase. Design Eye Creative announced closed today. Couple projects pushing through. Bit of a reluctant retirement.

##### **S Overland**

Thank you for breakfast opportunity. Draft of plan is out. Important we get engagement & honest feedback. Up for co-design. National Gallery of Australia agreed to loan artwork 1994 Julie Gough collection at new facility. Looking for permanent option. EOFY huge capital program – \$41.5M. Biggest capital program had for some time. Over 90% completion this year, creeping up to 95%. Set up for this year, forward view. A lot of work going on. Good program. *Discussion.* **C Hilliger:** Communication stream to community so much better around that topic. *Discussion on capital works program.* **D Austin:** Bel Lynch good responses to comments on social media (*comments*). *Positive comments from S Arnold.* *Discussion.*

##### **K Drake**

Project has potential to inject capital into whole area. Here to do community engagement. Building plan. Let me know if there are people, community groups, businesses I should talk to. Here to talk to everyone.

**M Cannon:** Suggest breakfast presentation with BNW. **K Drake:** Love to. Not just me – got lady on King Island & boss Mark Lindsey (*comments*).

**D Austin**

Difficulty employing young people 17-22 year range. Wondering if other people having same experience. *Discussion* . **S Overland**: Gen Z 30 sec attention span. Have to invest in retraining them to get them into the workplace. Generational issue. *Discussion* . **C Hilliger**: It's about selling them the prospect in a nurturing environment to develop those soft skills that every industry wants. Lot of investment. Had success – if right structure & right support. *Discussion* .

**S Arnold**

Long pipeline delay in getting projects approved & started. Went to Advanced WNW meeting – Nick Duigan talked about making Burnie renewable energy zone. REZ Legislation. *Discussion on delays* . Kmart asbestos removal. Making shop owners aware. **I Jones**: Put out in all community social networks.

**J Packham**

Library Aid International – hit a snag with Kentish Council. Can't use Beulah Hall due to issues with hall management committee. Looking for alternative location. Held up getting books to PNG, but still working on it.

**I Jones**

REZ causing a lot of angst in community. *Discussion* . *Description of turbine plans* . ReCFIT disastrous public consultation. Proposed legislation released tomorrow afternoon – will go to parliament early Sept. Concerned people are uninformed. *Discussion* . Need people in the region. Keep language simple. Roundtable in next week or two to come up with strategies. **C Hilliger**: Need a factsheet. **J McErlain**: It's the delivery of information to the community. *Discussion* . **S Arnold**: Announced allocated \$4M for regional training hub. *Discussion* . Electrical trades not feeling ready. *Discussion on tradies needed for renewable energy, feasibility study, money required* .

**Meeting closed 7:25PM**