

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 21st August 2024

I suppose the best thing about leaving writing this report until the last minute is that everything is very current!

The last week has been of great concern to many of us – the troubled *Spirits* issue has dominated the airwaves and led to the resignation of the Chair of TT Line. This won't fix the issue but at least the Premier has stepped in and appointed specialist project overseers to get it back on an acceptable track.

Also last week we had advice on a massive budget blow out – we expected a tough budget, but it may well be worse than we thought. Saul Eslake then came out and expressed his concern and suggested ways of raising revenue – one of which was to broaden the base of payroll tax - which would drop an anvil on small businesses that are currently marginal at best.

Our next breakfast features Gabi Conti, CEO of *West by North West* speaking on the way forward for tourism in our region. Gabi will be fresh from the 2024 Tasmanian Tourism Conference being held this week.

Last week we had the pleasure of hosting Premier Rockliff for lunch at the rhodo gardens and it was a very enjoyable event – I look forward to welcoming him and the Treasurer back on Friday September 13th for a cocktails & canape event at the EVRG as part of the 2024 Budget Roadshow.

This month's general meeting is tonight Wednesday August 21st at 6pm at the Burnie RSL Club - I hope you can join other members and perhaps share a meal afterwards.

I will be an apology as I am on my way to Melbourne then on to London for three weeks holiday. I am sure Justin will keep things on an even keel in that time.

Best regards

Ian Jones – President



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