

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 14th October 2024

I spent the first week of September on holidays in England and arrived back to suffer an 11 hour stay in Melbourne airport due to Qantas flight cancellations. I “vented my spleen” to the State Manager and was advised that Qantas is replacing the Q300s very soon as they have become unreliable. This discussion progressed through the month with DCCI President Claire Connelly stating concerns in the media about reduced flight frequency after the Q300s are replaced by the larger Q400s.



We met with the CEO of QantasLink to discuss our concerns and I believe in the medium term Burnie/Wynyard may be better off as we will have more seats available, but there is work that must be done by Qantas and our tourism folks to get more “bums on seats”. We must capitalise on the 5m person market just 40 minutes flight to our north. In the longer term I expect a lot for FIFO workers in the renewables industry will be using our airport which will also help build passenger volumes.

A major event for September was the Budget Roadshow cocktail party held at the Rhododendron Gardens which was a great success. We were fortunate to host the Treasurer Michael Ferguson plus Premier Rockliff and both circulated around the room having one on one discussions with those who attended. Several other politicians of various persuasions attended and the EVRG personnel provided a great “spread”.



Late in the month we hosted the Shadow Treasurer Angus Taylor MP for lunch and had a good crowd that enjoyed his presentation. Many thanks to Gavin Pearce for his assistance in securing such a high profile guest.

At our AGM I was very pleased to be re-elected as President for another year and to have our Executive team remain unchanged. I feel that we have a great mix of people on the Executive, a blend of widely experienced people that are all focussed on making Burnie better.

At the AGM we decided to no longer hold General Meetings each month as the attendances have been very poor over the last twelve months with us not having a quorum on several occasions, which is highly frustrating – even the AGM only just attracted a quorum despite extensive promotion. Like other chambers, we will use our Executive meetings to provide governance and direction – these are regularly attended by 80% of the group and are fully minuted. We will invite other participants to attend from time-to-time and welcome members to attend. We will publish notice of the meetings in our newsletter.

Likewise, with breakfasts we have had dwindling numbers so seek your support to advise what will get members to attend on a more regular basis.



In terms of local news, we were surprised by the sudden resignation of Steve Kons from Council. Steve has been Mayor on three occasions, has served Burnie well over a very long time and we wish him well in his future endeavours.

One of the issues that is facing the region is the shortage of housing for workers on future renewable energy projects. We have formed a sub committee to work on possible solutions. There are four major projects in our area; all of them require having hundreds of workers on site for periods up to two years. Current tourism accommodation is barely enough to cater for this need, and we need to be careful not to cause damage to the tourism industry in the medium to longer term.

Meanwhile the economy continues to stagnate, and harmful industrial relations laws seem to be targeted at small business making future conditions worse; we can only hope for interest rate reductions to start in November and come off regularly in 2025.

I am always interested in what members are experiencing and suggestions that need to be taken to our politicians so if you have an issue please contact me so I can advocate on your behalf.

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

PLATINUM MEMBERS:



GOLD MEMBERS:



SILVER MEMBERS:



BRONZE MEMBERS:

