

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – 20th November 2024

Well, here we are just five weeks from Christmas Day! Time seems to compress at this time of year as we busily prepare to take some well-deserved time off.

Interest rates stay persistently high and seem destined to stay that way for another six months at least – this must have an effect on customer spend in the retail and hospitality sectors.



Debbie King of *Bonita Leather* has once again decorated her heart out in the Plaza Arcade Shop 21 and this year we have donated \$1000 to assist her as she should not have to pay for decorations from her own pocket. Santa and Mrs Claus are set to visit and entertain the children on December 14, 15, 16 and 20, 21, 22 from 11-1pm. The Executive has voted

to make this an annual donation as it supports the retailers in the CBD and provides great joy to the community. Drop by and have a look – it will be amazing!

I had a varied month – a lot of work in the renewables area to try and get projects to kick off, TCCI meetings, a trip to Melbourne to the All Energy Australia conference and lots of advocacy work.



I was called to Launceston during the long weekend to do a press conference with the Premier and the Treasurer regarding the potential merger of TasPorts, TT Line and TasRail. The TCCI has been advocating for a year for GBE and SOC reform as we felt the system is

broken and there is insufficient accountability. It seemed to take a major issue with the *Spirits* to bring it to the fore. It will be interesting to see what happens – see [Government Business Governance Reform Draft Plan](#). Feedback on the reforms is sought by Friday, 13 December, 2024 and should be emailed to governmentbusinesses@treasury.tas.gov.au .

The following day I attended a business roundtable with Treasurer Barnett where we discussed the way forward and *TeamTasmania*. Many cited the *Spirits* saga and expressed concerns for the reputation of the state’s ability to deliver projects for developers – the government must work hard to regain the confidence of the business community. I do not doubt the sincerity of the Premier and the Treasurer – they must lead *TeamTasmania* back to where develops make us their first choice.



Two weeks ago, TCCI CEO Michael Bailey and I appeared before the Joint Parliamentary Committee for Energy Matters and told of the energy shortfall in the state largely caused by the inability for Tasmania to deliver large renewable energy projects and our concerns that Tasmania is becoming uncompetitive.



Last week I attended an Open Day at the TasTAFE Centre of Excellence on Mooreville Road. The CoE is a great building and well utilised training the agricultural providers of the future. It has a vast array of technologies from hi-tech GPS guided machinery, drones, tractor driving simulators and a life-size cow berthing mannequin. A real eye opener for the non-rural folk in attendance.

We enjoyed the company of the Minister for Finance Katy Gallagher last month. She addressed questions on finance but also on domestic violence in her role as Minister for Women and the event was well attended.



Congratulations to the Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens for being the 2024 Gold Winner for Tourist Attractions at the Tasmanian Tourism awards. Our very own Treasurer, Ant Dry is the immensely proud Chairman of EVRG and was in Hobart to accept the award – click the photo to see his acceptance speech.

Two more events for the year; both on December 4!

Breakfast with Stacey Joseph of TCCI speaking about impacts of recent *Fair Work Australia* changes then later that day we have Senator James Paterson; Shadow Minister for Home Affairs will be joining us for canapes and drinks – full details in your mailbox soon!



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: