

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 17th December 2024

Well, here we are just eight days from Christmas Day! In reality, Australia will stop this Friday – as I will. We had another busy month of activities and advocacy.



Members enjoyed an afternoon with Senator James Paterson at the Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens two weeks ago. The senator was an engaging speaker and enjoyed being at the gardens. He spoke of the dangers of being blasé about foreign interference by way of cyber activity and the threat it is to the nation and business.

We are getting closer to the federal election and there are federal politicians in and around Tasmania every day recently – today I attended a meeting with the Hon. Murray Watt, Minister for Employment, discussing employment programs in the region.



My question was regarding how can we improve our productivity as it has been waning nationally for twenty years. He suggested better training and skilling up as measures that he would support.



Last week we were advised that the Robbins Island energy project would be delayed another three months as the department needed more time. This appears blatantly political on behalf of Minister Plibersek and coincidentally was recognised by the Cradle Coast Authority which has written directly to the minister on behalf of the nine mayors in the region.

Sad to hear that *Mosaic Brands* plans to close several stores in the region including the *Katies/Autograph* stores in Burnie and possibly *Millers* and *Rivers*. Collectively these represent over 1000sqm of prime retail space which will really scar our CBD as replacement brands will be hard to find in the short term.



It was great to see the expansion of the Christmas Parade last Friday with 36 floats parading past a very enthusiastic crowd. The Burnie Musical Society took out the top prize and the Burnie Surf Club won the People's Choice award. Well done to all the float builders and to 7BU/SeaFM for their continued support of the community. Whilst on 7BU I thank Leigh Kenworthy for broadcasting our session every fortnight - it has been 4-5 years at least that we have done this, and it is a great way to keep our brand image in front of local businesses and community in general.



Don't forget *Illuminate NYE* on the foreshore which is another great event driven by SeaFM featuring food, music and drone displays to welcome in 2025.

The cruise ship season has commenced, and we have three ships this week then a break until mid-January. Please welcome our guests so they come back and spend more time here in the future.

I have locked in two breakfasts for 2025, the first is with MarinusLink providing an update on the project and the other is from the Dept of State growth presenting on defence manufacturing which is going to be a very interesting one. More details after the holidays.



Our office in the Plaza Arcade will be closed from DEC 23rd - JAN 7th and I will be returning around JAN 20th but of course am available by phone/email for any urgent matters over the holiday period. Merry Christmas!

Best regards

Ian Jones – President

PLATINUM MEMBERS:



GOLD MEMBERS:



SILVER MEMBERS:



BRONZE MEMBERS:

