

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 19th February 2025

Well, here we are just over halfway through February already!

Our new City General Manager Shane Crawford has been busy since starting in mid-December – we have had several meetings with Shane and are encouraged by his support and approach to getting on with the job of improving the city.



Our first breakfast of the year attracted 45 guests and featured executives from MarinusLink talking of the procurement process for this massive project. This week MLPL hosted an event to enable local businesses to present their credentials to the two shortlisted prime contractors – 170 local businesses took the opportunity to hear an overview of the project and introduce themselves. MarinusLink is the largest project to impact Burnie for many years, and there is money to go around to businesses of all types.

This week I was pleased to be invited to attend the announcement of the establishment of a \$27.5m Centre of Excellence for Clean Energy at the TAFE campus in Mooreville Road by Minister Ellis and Federal Minister Giles. The funds will also provide for a 25-person accommodation unit to allow remote students to be trained in the industry of the future.



I attended the north west launch of the Tasmania Devils AFL team in Devonport and met with new CEO Brendon Gale, a former Marist student who played over 200 games for Richmond and became a very successful CEO of the club, winning three premierships in the last decade. Brendon was keen to know how things are in Burnie as he has fond memories of playing footy there. The Devils are building a strong club and are very focused on “not being there to make up the numbers”.



Today Justin and I met with Senator Anne Urquhart and Senator Tim Ayres, Asst Minister for Trade and Future Made in Australia. We spoke of trade opportunities for the region and discussed the potential for manufacture of renewable energy componentry under the FMIA bill.

We have had a busy cruise ship week with another large ship arriving tomorrow. The volunteers and market stallholders have done a great job catering to the 5,000 passengers and crew that have visited us.

Our executive group is part way through our strategy development and has enlisted Warren Moore to assist us to finalise our strategy for the next few years. We are working to firmly establish the organisation as a sustainable entity with multiple revenue sources for support.

We welcome new members this month: prominent rural identity Mike Badcock of Enchanted Farms and consulting engineering company Rare Innovation represented by Andrew Goelst.



I attended the launch of the TCCI Tasmania Report in Hobart last week. The Tasmania Report – Vision 2028 outlines six key areas: energy, the budget, the economy, education and skills, consultation, and Government Business Enterprises and State-owned Companies.

Michael Bailey, TCCI CEO, said “Each of these areas is fundamental to our future. We need our political leaders to say how they will address each of these areas and deliver on each of these targets. This will require government between now and 2028 to embark on significant reform – to the budget, the public sector, GBEs, service delivery and the workforce – and will require bold and decisive action.

Premier Rockliff and the Cabinet were in town this week, and this gave local business and community leaders the chance to meet with relevant ministers and senior officials.



Our next event is a joint networking session with TasTAFE on April 8th at The Point. Grant Dreher, CEO of TasTAFE, will outline the future of the organisation.

Tickets are available [here](#).

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

PLATINUM MEMBERS



GOLD MEMBERS:



SILVER MEMBERS:



BRONZE MEMBERS:

