

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Not a great deal to report for January as Australia is virtually closed until after Australia Day.

I spent the first couple of weeks back in the office arranging events, so we have a joint networking event on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> with TasTAFE that has over 80 attendees, a special breakfast networking session on Monday Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> featuring the Special Envoy for Men Dan Repacholi MP presenting [2550 Empty Shoes](#) and finally on Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> the new CEO of Burnie Airport, Tyler Wilson, presenting on [Burnie Airport Flying High](#).



Our **Cool Places** map is now complete and is being distributed this week. It is designed for tourists entering Burnie to provide them with cool places to visit, be they cafes, attractions or accommodation. I have had lots of positive feedback on the map. Penguin Tourist Centre rang wanting more, and Sue from the ArtCade said customers felt like it was giving them the “inside goss” on great places to go to.

The renewable energy projects march on with NWTD and Marinus to break ground in the next few months, and I am working hard with Cyndia to get more attention on the workforce accommodation problem that we envisage will occur with so many FIFO workers coming in to an already saturated rental market.

After the success of our *Shop Small Win Big* retail promotion in October, we are conducting another *SSWB* promotion in the run up to Easter. The promotion was one of the most successful 7BU/SeaFM has conducted in recent years and we got amazing brand recognition from the constant radio advertising.

Next week I will be appearing as a witness in the Senate Committee enquiry - *State of Australia's aviation sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities*.

Regional airports such as Burnie/Wynyard and Devonport are the lifeblood of our region so I will be stressing that our regional airports deserve full government support to be able to provide the services we require as a business service, tourism enabler and for community transport.

We received a visit from the Deputy Premier Guy Barnett last week. He was very interested to hear of the progress Burnie is making and is quite excited for us. He will be acting Minister for Energy for a few weeks whilst Minister Duigan is on medical leave so was keen to be brought up to speed on all the projects we have in the region.



VIRIDIS has submitted a Development Application to Burnie Council for the establishment of a high security data centre in the old Advocate print building – it will consume one floor of the building (formerly Mancell Financial) and operates on a low energy load and minimal water dependence. Decision 24/2.

We recently put out a media release on the Launceston City Council’s plan to offer a four-day working week to its staff. Typically, the four-day week is for the same number of hours currently worked – around 37.5 but this was reducing the hours worked to around 30.5 for the same money – essentially a 20% pay increase. TCCI has been especially strong in its condemnation of this proposal, and I hope has done enough to thwart it as it would be the “thin end of the wedge” for other councils and enterprises to reduce service hours which would have a negative impact on business.



I hope to see you at one of our events very soon.

Best regards

**Ian Jones** – President

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