

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 19th AUGUST 2026

Many of you have heard of *Advance West North West* – it is an association formed to maximise opportunity for all Tasmanians, particularly in developing the capabilities, skills and trades located in the West and North-western part of our state – providing sustainability, opportunity and growth potential for traditional industry and the growing renewable-energy sector in our region. It was established by Craig Brakey 3-4 years ago, and after a recent discussion, we thought it would be great to leverage BNW's resources and the chamber network to help the AWNW members.



I am pleased to announce that the Advance West North West organisation is amalgamating with Business Northwest, which will effectively double our membership plus make it more diverse as AWNW has a lot of trade professionals in its membership.

It's an interesting mix of trade professionals, logistic operators, project developers, employment services, mining and renewables companies all across the northwest and down the west coast too – so it extends our regional coverage. For AWNW members, it provides a strong identity as we have a physical office and staff resources plus access to benefits of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce such as workplace-relations advice and training – so a win/win for both organisations.



A highlight of the month for BNW was the official opening of the penguin habitat at West Park, which was a joint effort of *Friends of Burnie Penguins*, *UTAS* and *BNW*.

The installation of tunnels allows the resident colony of Little Penguins to travel safely from the foreshore through to habitat closer to the UTAS campus. BNW has been a supporter of the penguins for several years, and Justin McErlain has put a lot of time into promoting our "Urban Penguins". The YouTube live feed from the burrows has been very popular – and the soon-to-be implemented "tunnel cams" will surely be a hit. Watch 7News tomorrow for their piece on this exciting upgrade.

Justin is pictured with VP Des Hodgetts, who also played a vital role when project managing the UTAS development, and Sonya Stafford, UTAS Pro Vice-Chancellor.

We have an exciting breakfast planned for next Wednesday August 26th at the Beach Hotel. We have a senior exec from ANZ Bank, Tim Orchard, providing an *Economic and Interest Rate Update at an Uncertain and Volatile time*. [Tickets here.](#)



Tim is a career banker, having spend 13 years at NAB and almost ten at ANZ, working across foreign exchange plus managing clients within Corporate Banking and Healthcare sectors. At NAB, he was a Risk Manager and also in Treasury Management, so thanks to our local ANZ folk for bringing Tim to us.



Burnie came alive last week with the Rally Tasmania team visiting Burnie and Communion Brewery hosting a massive street party in conjunction with many other businesses, and thanks must go to

the Burnie City Council for working hard to get this event in our city.

Business Northwest will be holding its Annual General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday September 16th at the Burnie RSL Club upon conclusion of the normal monthly meeting. All members are invited to attend both meetings and participate in the election of new office bearers for the 2026-27 year and to receive the 2025-26 Annual Reports. If you want to nominate for positions, please contact me for a nomination form.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Science week has come alive in Burnie via the efforts of Daniel Edwards and the team at *GreenSTEM*, who are hosting this year's event at Burnie Arts today. The program brings primary and secondary students together showcasing science experiments and also featuring prominent scientists Dr Karl Kruszelnicki and Dr Kirsten Banks.

On my recent trip to the UK, I was once again surprised at the cost of living there (albeit a large capital city) – the cost of fuel, food and public transport made me feel very happy about living in Australia. Whilst things are tough here, there are other places where it is much worse – a point that many locals are not aware of.

Give your business a voice! All businesses in Burnie and Wynyard are entitled to vote in council elections, providing they have registered to do so on the General Manager's Roll. This can be accessed on councils' websites, or feel free to call me on 1300 BURNIE if you need assistance.

Best regards,



Ian Jones – President

PLATINUM MEMBERS				
				
GOLD MEMBERS		SILVER MEMBERS		BRONZE MEMBERS
				
				
				
				
				