

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 15th SEPTEMBER 2026

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 6pm monthly meeting. All members are invited to attend both meetings to receive the 2025-26 Annual Reports and participate in the election of new office bearers for the 2026-27 year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



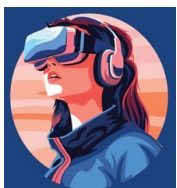
Council elections are fast approaching with ballots to be mailed out in early October. Business Northwest will be conducting candidate forums for Burnie Council and Waratah/Wynyard Council in late September. Burnie is at the *Burnie Arts* on September 30th from 5:30pm and Waratah/Wynyard at *The Watershed* on 28/9 from 5:30pm. Each candidate will have two minutes to introduce themselves and outline their plans. This will be followed by questions taken from our email inbox (admin@bccci.net.au for Burnie and social@businessnw.com.au for Waratah/Wynyard).

We then will have mayoral candidates speak for three minutes each which will be followed by questions. Both events will be livestreamed to our Facebook page then saved and stored on our [YouTube page](#). We will be sending invitations to candidates once nominations are finalised.

During August I toured the new data centre facility that Viridis is building in the old Advocate print building in Alexander St. A senior executive from Viridis conducted the tour, and I was joined by early customers who have committed to use the centre. It is a small data centre known as an “edge data centre” and provides data processing moreso than token production or storage and is a Level 4 security facility suitable for defence use. The centre doesn't use any more energy that is already available in the building and water usage is just for the kitchen and toilets as it is air cooled. It is expected to go live in October 2027.



Data centres are a hot topic right now at all government levels and there is a lot of misinformation circulating. I had another session with Firmus two weeks ago and am impressed with what they say. Water usage is nowhere near what many people are saying it will be (based on their extensive google research) and the major economic benefit is the revenue that Hydro will receive for the energy supplied potentially >\$400m over the three proposed centres. We must face the fact that many of our current large energy users may well cease to exist in the next few years and if we do not replace them with equivalent load the transmission costs will increase for all of us.



Burnie has been selected as one of only 21 communities nationally to host the nbn *Virtual Reality Roadshow*, bringing an exciting opportunity for local businesses to experience the future of workforce training and business capability. Join us for an [exciting breakfast at the Beach Hotel with NBN Co](#) on Wednesday the 30th of September!



We are sponsoring another *Shop Small Win Big* campaign with 7BU that will run throughout October. Customers shopping at participating retailers scan a QR code and upload their receipt, and every day one lucky customer wins the value of their purchase back in cash. This helps stimulate retail and brings customers into the CBD. The *SSWB* campaign we ran in February attracted 1000+ entries, 1400 on-air mentions and 57,000 social media views – one of the most popular campaigns in recent times for 7BU.

I am pleased to advise that we have two retailers to be inducted into the *Retail Hall of Fame* – their stories will be enshrined upon the wall in the Plaza Arcade in the near future.



Alison Poke of *Indigo House* has had 28 years of providing excellent customer service selling modern contemporary gifts and homewares from her Mount St store. Alison has been very active in retail advocacy and *Indigo House* has won numerous awards along the journey.



The exceptionally hard-working Melissa Jackson from the *Burnie Flower Gallery* is our second inductee and has been operating for 26 years in Centrepont Arcade. Melissa has taken over two other florist businesses and merged them in to her award-winning business in recent years.

Both are very deserving inductees, and we salute their contribution to Burnie retail over the last two decades and look forward to them being commemorated on the wall.

After eight years, this is my last newsletter as I will not be renominating for the position of President. The role has been amazing for me, and I have enjoyed it very much, but it is time for change, and I look forward to working with our new President and Board to be elected at the AGM. I hope to see you there!

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

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Powering the North West Coast			
			
GOLD MEMBERS		SILVER MEMBERS	
			
			
			
		Burnie airport	
BRONZE MEMBERS			
			
			