BUSINESS NORTHWEST

Promoting Regional Growth

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 28th October 2026

Project Marinus

On Friday October 2nd, Project Marinus was officially launched with a sod-turning ceremony at the Heybridge site. The sod turning marked the official start of construction on this generational infrastructure project.

Marinus & TasNetworks hosted a breakfast at Ember & Vines to mark the occasion. The gathering brought together over 100 business & government partners from across Tasmania, the mainland & internationally to celebrate.

Burnie has rarely seen a more influential & successful group brought together to make this project a reality.

TasNetworks have issued a start work notice to Genus for construction to begin on the North West Transmission project. Genus have issued over $100-million worth of contracts in the past month alone. Gradco are undertaking a major civil component of the project, and Stubbs Constructions have started on the critical works associated with the Sheffield switch station among many others. This means jobs for Tasmanians.

Council election forums for candidates at both Waratah-Wynyard & Burnie

Business Northwest was invited to conduct election forums for the Waratah-Wynyard & Burnie Council elections.

BNW hosted the Waratah Wynyard forum at the Wynyard Yacht Club. All 12 candidates participated & over 70 community members participated. The livestream of this forum has attracted 7000 views.

The Burnie Council forum was hosted at Burnie Arts with in excess of 250 community members. 14 of the 18 candidates participated in an informative evening. The livestream of this forum has attracted over 12000 views.

These forums have provided a significant platform for all candidates to show their capabilities to electors.

Council Election – Counting begins Wednesday 28th October

Council election counting will begin on Wednesday 28th October. With only 7 elected representatives from each council to be successful, counting is going to create a deal of interest.

We are hopeful of knowing the make up of our councils in the coming week & look forward to working with the successful candidates on matters of interest to our members.

Shop Small, Win Big

Business North West & 7BU/SeaFM have again partnered to bring the Shop Small Win Big promotion to our region.

University Council – Visit to Burnie

The University of Tasmania Council held a meeting in Burnie earlier in the month. The Chancellor held an informal discussion with community leaders to discuss the opportunities for the university & converse about Cradle Coast priorities. The expansion of the university campus course offerings has provided a pathway for all community members to participate.

The university recently purchased Wellers Inn to convert to student accommodation. This refurbishment will bring the accommodation back to full use.

Immediate past President – Ian Jones

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian Jones for the incredible role he has played in the development of Business Northwest over the past decade. Ian continues on our board to assist with the priorities of our organisation & our members and also continues in the role of chairman of Clean Energy Tasmania. Ian is currently participating in a trade mission in Singapore with representatives of the Tasmanian Government.

Kind regards,

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