

## President's Notes – March 2019

Summer has gone and Autumn is rolling in – not long until we wind the clocks back and hunker down for winter - there is still plenty happening though!

The cruise ship season is almost complete with only one vessel (the Noordam) remaining to visit us twice in the next two weeks. We had several ships on their maiden voyage to Burnie and as usual we made a good impression, so hope to see them again. The highlight for most people was the arrival of the Queen Elizabeth that visited us twice and will return in mid-December. The installation of the mooring dolphin so vigorously lobbied for by the Chamber for many years means we can now accommodate some of the largest liners in the world (and reap the resultant revenue).

The season had mixed success with several ships not able to access the port due to difficult weather conditions or changes of ownership. Easterly or other high wind conditions in our port played a major part in the “sail bys” this year. The top-heavy nature of large cruise ships compared to freighters operated by Toll makes them difficult to manoeuvre, especially when wind and or swell is lateral to the hull and the Captain needs to make a risk averse decision to protect ship and crew.

Next season the forecast is for 42 ships; a 50% increase in ships and probably even greater in passenger numbers. The effect on our volunteer workforce will mean that we need more people to assist so please contact me if you can help in any way.

The *10 Days on the Island* festival kicked off on the Friday of the long weekend with a fantastic dawn celebration of women and indigenous culture on the beach at Devonport, then rolled on to the *Acoustic Life of Sheds* which had over 1,000 visitors over the four days – it continues to grow at a remarkable rate - well done Jane Haley, Lindy Hume and the team at TDOTI.

Daryl Connelly, CEO of the Cradle Coast Authority presented the *“The Cradle Coast Regional Futures Plan – a New Approach to Economic Development”* at our last breakfast – it was the second instalment of the Chamber Economic Trilogy and showed us how the Authority will manage the plan and work with all stakeholders to implement it; and we thank Daryl for providing the update.

Next week the newly appointed Office of the Coordinator General local representative Jackie Harvey will be speaking to us regarding major projects for the region – both those announced and hopefully others in the pipeline. This unit operates under the Department of State Growth and is responsible for attracting and securing investment in major development projects in Tasmania that maximise their contribution to Tasmania's economic growth. Jackie brings a wealth of experience to the role having performed a very similar role in Scotland for many years, including a massive urban redevelopment project in the Glasgow area costing over \$1.8B.

We are hoping to have a special Budget Review breakfast on April 3<sup>rd</sup> featuring a live cross to Canberra and additionally get the Labor and Liberal candidates to address breakfast sessions in the lead up to the election; plus we intend to host a public election forum in late April or early May.

On Tuesday I will be meeting with members of the Productivity Commission which is conducting a study into remote area taxation concessions and payments. This study focuses on three longstanding measures that provide support to individuals and businesses in remote areas, namely the:

- zone tax offset (ZTO)
- fringe benefit tax (FBT) remote area concessions
- Remote Area Allowance (RAA).

Incentives such as these are important to assist our region in reaching its full potential by attracting more workers to develop some of our more remote resources.

One of our major sponsors, 7BU is about to make a major change to its operation mode as it switches from the AM band to FM band on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will provide a clearer signal with less noise and represents one of the most significant upgrades the station has done in its 83-year history. It has been running 7BU in parallel for a few weeks and I can attest the signal is clearer and has a greater range; as I listened to both on a recent trip to Launceston. 7BU has made a major contribution to our region since most of us were children listening to the Sunpolishers' Club; and we wish them well for the changeover. The next Chamber broadcast will be in FM on Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> following the 8:00am news – so tune that dial to 100.9 on the FM band!

I hope to see you at the General Meeting this Wednesday at 6pm in the RSL Club.

best regards

Ian Jones – **President**

*April 18, 1953*



**SUNPOLISHERS' PARTY**

Response to the 7BU Sunpolishers' Club party held in the Burnie Town Hall last night was so overwhelming that the 2000 children and parents who attended could not be accommodated in the Town Hall.

The extent of the Coast-wide club's membership was proved by a multitude of gaily-costumed children, ranging from toddlers upwards.

Organised by the local radio station to raise funds for St. Giles' Home for the After-Care of Crippled Children, the party was a tremendous success.

To accommodate the people who massed at the door of the Town Hall in Cattley street at 7.30 p.m., the organisers held another "branch" of the party in the Parish Hall across the road.

Organising the children were the station manager (Mr. Tas. Lord), Tony Davis, Jan Nothrop (Aunt Jan), Alan Cooke, Claire Baldock and Pat. Quirk, all staff members of the station.

Presents and prizes issued to the children throughout the night were donated by leading businessmen in Burnie