

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APRIL 2021**Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Well, JobKeeper ended and the sky didn't fall in. We still need to be cautious as many industries are still experiencing supply chain issues and its not just "business as usual". Tourism is gaining strength fuelled by the free car deal on the Spirits and the half price airfares.

It is great to see some mainland number plates on the roads and southerners are still exploring the "coast", often leaving bookings until the last minute adding to the stress of operators who need to change rosters with little notice. Many accommodation providers have had high occupancy rates for some weeks now; but will it continue as we go into the winter season.

Last week we concluded our final *Helping Burnie Work* course under the Regional Employment Trial - it has been a success in that several of the participants are in full time work and others have secured casual employment; we have learnt a lot from it and responded to a Department of Education Skills and Employment limited tender to provide four more courses for next financial year with an improved course structure.

On Wednesday we had an interesting breakfast featuring Tony Wright from Hermal Group who spoke of the development of the project CLTP has started in Wynyard. They are not proceeding with the development at Hampshire but will collocate with Pentarch at Massey Greene Drive in Havenview, as it has better proximity to the port and is more suitable to the business model they are adopting. The event was very well attended and the livecast on our Facebook page has had over 100 views.

Next week we have the new GM at Hellyer Road Distillery, Andy Bower speaking to us on the current status and future for the distillery. Following that on May 12<sup>th</sup> Paul Cenoz from OSINT Combine will be speaking on *Open Source Intelligence and Your Digital Footprint*. Paul will discuss his work with technology companies including Morning Consult, an online market research company, and OSINT Combine, an open-source intelligence company, and how your online information is being used.

Renew Burnie is underway, and we have several entities moving in at the moment. *The Innovation Hub* is setting up in the former Burnie's pad at the Mount St end of Plaza Arcade. It will be an incubator for true start-ups plus provide co-working spaces for local entrepreneurs and visiting business people.

*Placard & Pose* in City Square has almost completed redecoration and will be making and selling handmade jewellery, soaps and candles plus conducting training workshops. Next door *Blackspace Creative* will be promoting indigenous art. Downstairs behind the newsagency off Wilmot St the NW Veterans Welfare Board is establishing a veteran's hub to provide one to one advice and support for our veteran community. It will be opened by Mr Doug Baird OAM at noon on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Following on from the successful *Front & Centre* art display in our pop-up shop the Burnie Arts Council will be putting new pieces in the windows next week. We are certainly bringing art to the people.

I was pleased to see that the Council has planted grasses in the road islands around the CBD over the weekend. I am sure that in a few months when the grass grows out it will make a strong visual impact. We continue to seek ways to make the CBD a more attractive destination and will be speaking to Council regarding our ideas in coming weeks.

We were alerted to several thefts from building sites at last month's meeting and last week we had a lot of graffiti in Mount St, Bass Highway and Wellington St. I will be contacting local police to get their view on the situation. If you have knowledge of any other recent incidents, please let me know.

We welcome Blackspace Creative represented by Caleb Nichols-Mansell as a Silver member and Regional Development Australia (RDA) represented by Mike Brindley as a Bronze member.

As part of COVID requirements many businesses will need to adopt the government Check In Tas app for all customers as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are unsure if it affects your business please call me to discuss.

Following our meeting Wednesday evening please join us for a meal in the RSL bistro.

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

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