

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – August 2021

August 15th, 2021

Another month past – and still no end in sight for the COVID pandemic. Tasmania is the lucky state at the moment with no lockdown in place - but I suspect it is just a matter of time. The extension of lockdowns in Victoria and NSW will have a dramatic effect upon us as there is a lot of manufacturing and supply businesses in those areas that we rely on. Our tourism industry is taking another beating after going through a strong recovery last quarter. Bravo! to the state government for reintroducing the travel voucher scheme – I was very pleased to “win the lottery” this time and get one! Also, nice to hear of the federal and state governments putting up \$20m in business support packages for the tourism, hospitality and events sector. But really, is it enough?? [Need more info to apply?](#)

The Hydrogen Industry Forum postponed a few weeks ago is back on with panellists appearing by Zoom. It is at The Beach Hotel on August 30 from 9:30am – 1.00pm and will feature local industry experts plus panellists from Origin Energy, CSIRO, H2H Energy, Fortescue and Hydrostar. This is an important forum for the development of this future industry in Burnie, so I urge you to attend. [More info here](#)

It is fantastic to welcome a new Bronze member in Countrywide Renewable Hydrogen. Their Managing Director Geoff Drucker spoke to me of projects they have in Melbourne and Bell Bay but he has a real passion for setting up a hydrogen project in Burnie as he recognises the assets we have in terms of port facilities, industrial real estate and human resources. I look forward to welcoming Geoff to speak to us when he can get out of Melbourne next.

Further to last month's briefing with Council I am delighted to advise of the continued funding and support of our promotional activities and indeed the expansion of activities we will be driving - details will be finalised in the next two weeks. Planning will ramp up this week for the Excellence in Service Awards being held November 20th and we will commence the development of street markets and events for the 2021/22 year.

We restart our Breakfast Networking Sessions on August 25th when we hear from local entrepreneur Andrew Turner of Communion Brewing Co. Andrew is better known (currently) from his existing business The Chapel, where he provides fine coffee and food. He has been brewing beer for a few years now and has decided to go “all in” with what will be an exciting new business on the corner of Alexander & Wilmot Sts.

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The *Renew Burnie* project is moving along nicely with most available shops in both arcades now occupied. At last month's meeting I announced the opening of [Belle Époque Interior](#) in the City Square Arcade just near Print Domain (run by that guy who "loves printing". Open Wed-Friday and other days by appointment, Sara has a great range of gifts on display so please get along and support her growing business.

Justin and I attended the Chamber Alliance meeting in Campbelltown last week and had the pleasure of meeting with the new Minister for Small Business, Jane Howlett. She spoke of her family's and her small business experience and is keen to meet the Alliance on a regular basis. Part of the election commitment was \$300K for Regional Chambers to support their members and we will be submitting an application for funds next week.

I hope you can join us at the AGM to celebrate another great year and discuss the year ahead.

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

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