

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – November 2021**

Breakfast Networking Sessions continue to attract good numbers with an average of 30 attendees in the last few months. This Wednesday we go "offsite" to Guide Falls Farm to meet the owner Rachel Jacka and hear her story. It is about 25 minutes drive from Burnie so leave early!!

Our remaining breakfasts are: DEC 1<sup>st</sup> (Hugh Marquis) and 15<sup>th</sup> (TasNetworks). I will send you reminder emails closer to the dates. If you are unable to attend, please remember that most breakfasts are live streamed plus a link is sent out the following day. Often, we only get a handful of viewers on the morning but between 50-150 views on subsequent days. We will be moving all videos to our YouTube channel and to the website soon.

At our last meeting I raised the idea of making more use of rhododendrons in our city. The idea met with widespread approval at the meeting and in subsequent discussions with EVRG and Council. Members of the Executive attended a meeting held by the Dept of State Growth to discuss *The Gateway Project*. *"Over five years, \$2.66 million has been allocated for each of three Gateway Projects in the South, North East and North West of the state. The Gateway Projects will provide upgrades on state roads at entry points to selected cities to reflect the unique character and tourism offerings of each region. The vision for the project is the beautification of entry points primarily through the enhancement of green infrastructure, with the potential for wayfinding or other elements to be included that contribute to the visitor experience."*

We will be submitting a proposal for this funding, and I believe we are in a strong position to gain substantial funding to support our "rhodo city" project. Burnie's bicentenary is in 2027 so with five years of growth we should be able to have a spectacular display all around the city. We will also focus on better wayfinding signage as part of the project.

After discussion with Council, we have rescheduled the Excellence Awards event to 29<sup>th</sup> January so the public can experience service over the festive season and vote accordingly.

We are busy organising the Christmas Street Party for Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – there will be market stalls, children's entertainment, food stalls, a choir, bands and live music plus the lighting of the Community Tree at sunset.

Another date to put in your diary is December 10<sup>th</sup> - it is our *Christmas Soirée* – a chance to relax with members and guests and reflect on another year passing. It starts at 5:30 at Wellers Inn and everyone is welcome – more details in coming weeks.

Last week we entered into a contract with the Dept of Education, Skills & Employment to provide four training courses to teach employability skills to 32 long term

unemployed. The first course will start NOV 23 and we will be seeking assistance from businesses to provide a one-week work experience placement from DEC 13 onwards. Subsequent courses will be held in February, April and May and I hope that several businesses or organisations can assist in the work experience – who knows – you may well find your next employee! We also need businesses to provide some of the classroom training – details of your business, the industry and employment opportunities are some of the areas we need to address. If you can assist with a one hour presentation, please let me know.

On the arts front we have secured premises at 22 Wilmot St (old Dick Smith shop) for three months and will host three exhibitions over the three months including one of national significance. Ten Days on the Island and the Council are our partners in this exciting event. Furthermore, we have applied for a large grant under the RISE scheme and if successful will have these premises for up to two years to host visual arts, performing arts and potentially historical exhibitions.

If you have questions regarding any of the information in this report, please do not hesitate to call me or attend our General Meeting at the Burnie RSL Club this Wednesday commencing at 6pm – and maybe join us for dinner in the bistro afterwards.

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

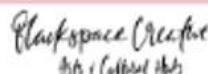
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