

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

Well, where did that year go? It flashed by and here we are celebrating another Christmas with COVID still not beaten. Our borders open tomorrow, and I have my fingers crossed that we will not suffer too much as COVID re-enters the state. The government appears to be well prepared and has even taken over Wellers Inn to provide local quarantine services. It is expected that next March will see the peak of COVID cases – it's a real driver to get double vaccinated and take the booster shot as soon as you can. Only that can protect us – we may still contract COVID, but it shouldn't be fatal.

We recently launched our Northwest Excellence Awards and are looking to find the people and businesses which provide the best service in the Burnie /Wynyard area. There are lots of award categories – best small business, best large business, best café, best agribusiness and personal categories like best tradie, best carer, best customer service and so on. Listeners can go online to the [7BU website](#) and cast their vote. Good service deserves to be recognised so we want everyone to log on and cast a vote for a business or an individual that has really gone above and beyond the norm in providing customer service. It's not just limited to retail stores – businesses providing services like insurance, optometrists, real estate can also be voted for. Thanks to 7BU , Burnie and Waratah Wynyard Councils for the support.

Reflecting on the year, I am proud of what we have achieved for a small team. We have been highly successful in obtaining grant funding to perform projects to support our goals of increasing visitation and improving our local area.

Some of our activities for 2021:

- Greening of the city streets
- Platypus cam at EVRG
- Penguin cam at West Park
- The Lightshow experience at Table Cape
- Renew Burnie
  - Pop up library
  - Living History walk extension
  - Business Northwest pop up office
- Helping Burnie Work – new contract
- Christmas street party
- Northwest Excellence Awards

Plans for 2022

- Continuation of Renew Burnie
- Pop-up art gallery
- Helping Burnie Work
- Completion of Table Cape experience
- Rhododendron city and Gateway project

I give my sincere thanks to Cyndia Hilliger and Justin McErlain for their tireless work in getting many of these projects up and running – I know it hasn't been easy for them dealing with bureaucracy, but they deliver.

Our partnership with Burnie City Council continues to “bear fruit” and we look forward to more opportunities to improve the area in coming years via this strategic relationship.

Our breakfast networking sessions are becoming even more popular – we now enter our seventh year of this successful program and I thank Michael Cannon and Justin for their support in delivering these every fortnight. The live streaming is a great addition and is very popular with up to 150 views for some of the speakers. We thank Nigel and the crew at Wellers Inn for their support over the years – it has really helped the program.

Finally, thank you to our sponsors for their ongoing support – it is great to have a committed group of sponsors that want to be involved with our group.

The office will be closed from DEC 17 – JAN 17 whilst we have a well-deserved rest. Don't worry – things will still be happening in the background as many of these projects need us to “keep the plates spinning” over the holidays!

Best regards and all the best for the festive season!



**Ian Jones** – President

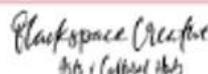
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