



DEVONPORT

Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.

Your Business Voice

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021





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2020–2021 OFFICE BEARERS

President: Eric Mobbs
Senior Vice-President: Rod Bramich
Vice-President: Dave Race
Treasurer: Julie Foster
Secretary: Joanna Millis
Executive Members: James Foster
Vonette Mead
Paul Fielding
Ian Macleod

Life Members: Mr. Graeme Capp
Mr. Dallas Cowan
Mr. Alan Waddle
Mr. Ray Wright
Mr. Eric Mobbs

Auditor: Don Willing & Associates Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountant
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Mission Statement

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. is a vital mechanism for the advancement of commercial, business and industrial interests in the Devonport area. The Chamber is constantly striving to improve the quality of life for residents, in concert with its continuing endeavours to create an economic climate conducive to the development, fostering and well-being of existing and new commercial interest.

Our mission is to be an energising and vitalising force in the community. We seek to untie all the industrial, commercial and government interests for the purpose of supporting those activities which are broader than any single business or industry but which promotes the well-being of Devonport community as a whole.

The chamber is a clearing house for ideas and is intended to be a working forum for the development of the city and its surrounding region.

Objects and Purpose of the Chamber

- To promote commercial, trading, shipping and manufacturing interests in Tasmania and elsewhere and to take all the necessary measures to advance to same;
- To collect and disseminate information on all matter of interest to the commercial community;
- To use every means within its power for the removal and redress of grievances and for promotion of trade of the state;
- To watch over and protect the general interests of commerce;
- To establish and maintain a code of practice whereby the transactions of business may be simplified and facilitated;
- To undertake by arbitration or otherwise the settlement of disputes arising out of commerce and to record such discussions for the future help and guidance of members;
- To amalgamate or cooperate with any institutions, societies or associations having objects wholly or in part similar to those of the Chamber.



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Presidents Report

It does not seem 12 months since I took on the role of president of the DCCI. The year has gone quickly and has been a very busy one. This year has been a year of rejuvenation with new executive committee members and our new secretary Joanna Millis. We have established a number of sub committees, each charged with looking after the various aspects of the chamber's operation. Each committee has given its own report elsewhere.

It is pleasing to see that with some exception business in Devonport is flourishing. Obviously travel and tourism sectors are struggling but hopefully the recent travel voucher announcement by the State Government will go some way to alleviate this.

It is extremely disappointing to see the constant criticism and negative comments being made by a very small non representative group of individuals regarding the Living City Project. This project has already started to rejuvenate the city and once the hotel is finished we can expect even more activity.

As a Chamber we do need more retailers in particular to join the Chamber so as to enable us to speak with a louder voice. It has been pleasing to see a steady trickle of new members come on board this year. Remember that membership of the Devonport Chamber of Commerce also gives you basic membership of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce with its many benefits.

Discussions are under way with the Devonport City Council regarding a memorandum of understanding which will assist with future dealings and cooperation with Council. The memorandum will cover such things as retail promotions and joint marketing efforts.

Finally I wish to thank all of the executive and secretary Joanna for all of their hard work this year particularly during my recent stay in hospital.

I will not be contesting the president role this year and together with several committee positions open I wish all new incumbents every success with their efforts.

Remember a successful chamber is essential for the continued active life of business in Devonport.



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Mayor's Message

Well, it's hard to believe we have seen another year come and go.

As all DCCI members are fully aware Covid-19 continues to provide challenges – and opportunities - for us all to work our way through.

As I mentioned in last year's report, during the early months of the pandemic Council made several decisions aimed at supporting our community through. These decisions meant that Council budgeted for a substantial deficit for the 2020-21 financial year. However, pleasingly, many of the 'worst case' scenarios that we had made provision for did not eventuate and Council is in a good position to continue to plan for the immediate and long term future.

Over the past three years Council has invested heavily in digital transformation and then the restrictions of Covid-19 forced us all to work differently. Council staff have embraced the possibilities that the digital world has offered and many improvements have been made in the way we communicate – with each other, with councillors and with the wider community. Council continues to 'live-stream' monthly meetings, giving more people the opportunity to see democracy in action, and the decision-making processes of DCC.

As you are all aware, the Waterfront Park and the hotel are progressing, with the park due for completion by early 2021 and the hotel a little later, perhaps midyear.

After a disappointing but understandable delay State Government has now ordered the new Spirits and TasPorts have announced the huge project to be undertaken to accommodate the Spirits and the planned freight capacity expansions as well.

Although we have seen some of the large national chains leave our city it has been exciting to see the many other retailers open, update or move, showing confidence in our city and optimism in the future.

Council and the Chamber worked closely to complete and endorse a Retail Strategy, with funds allocated in the current budget to undertake some of the actions from that strategy. This will form part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two bodies to acknowledge and formalise the importance of the relationship.

The Chamber plays a vital role in being the voice of local business and in supporting and encouraging business and development within our city and I thank the Executive Committee members for volunteering their time to the organisation and look forward to continuing to work together to make Devonport an even better place to live, work and invest.

We can all always do better but I firmly believe that Devonport is doing well and in a good place to take advantage of the opportunities the future will offer.

Thank you.

Annette Rockliff

Mayor



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Industry & Innovation Group Report

This year has been another roller coaster ride for many of our business in the region as we continue to grapple with interstate lockdowns, supply chain issues and lack of interstate visitors whether they be for business or pleasure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have enjoyed more freedom compared to other states, the fact remains while they are in lock down, we are also locked out of their state and vis versa.

Many businesses are doing it tough, with the constant change in interstate lockdowns and border closures which directly effects their daily operations such as TT Line and the airport, while other business get disrupted due to the lack of critical building materials, supply of new vehicles and everyday commodities that we take for granted.

All these issues will affect our recovery as move into the next phase of the pandemic, that is, living with the virus in the community like we have done with the flu. As borders open and travel becomes less restrictive it is hoped the virus spread will slow down as we get more vaccinations completed and the supply chain will open again to pre pandemic levels.

We also must be mindful that as the state embarks on record spending on infrastructure projects over next few years, we need to have sufficient trained personnel to undertake these works. This may see people leaving the domestic and industrial building sector for example in order to secure more stable work as material supplies slows the building industry.

I am pleased to advise that we have restarted our Industry and Innovation Group meetings in a new format which now takes place over breakfast. This has seen the group expand with some new faces across various industry sectors and new ideas which is most welcomed. One of the many strengths that the industry subcommittee has is the diversity of its member's and the ability to point people and businesses in the right direction and help them connect with others to foster good business outcomes. This will continue going forward and we will be choosing different locations for each our breakfast meetings.

Our industry site visits which were suspended during the start of COVID-19 will restart with our first one scheduled later in this month at Bio Mar.

As we emerge into the next phase of living with the virus and the opening of the borders, the completion of the living of city project in Devonport, the arrival of the New Spirit of Tasmania ships, coupled with the infrastructure and building projects in pipeline the future is looking very bright for the Devonport Region.

Dave Race
Chairperson

Meet OUR TEAM



Eric Mobbs

President

Eric joined the Chamber in 2000 when Tony Reid was the President after arriving in Tasmania in December 1999, he set up a bookkeeping service for small business in 2000. Eric has served on the Chamber executive in numerous roles including Treasurer, President and more. Eric has formed an agricultural group which had lapsed, formed an education and training committee and helped to revitalise the industry group.



Rod Bramich

Senior Vice President

Rod is the owner of Catalyst Business Improvement. He is a Business Coach and Advisor working with small to medium sized businesses. He has considerable experience having worked in this space for over 15 years. Rod also represents Traders in Purple in Tasmania. Traders in Purple are a community focused property developer with several hundred million dollars of projects proposed and underway in Tasmania.



Dave Race

Vice President

Dave is the General Manager of Devonport Airport which is owned and operated by TasPorts, a position he has held for the past two years. Prior to this, Dave was Manager - Airport Operations, Infrastructure and Standards at Essendon Airport. He brings to Devonport his wealth of aviation knowledge and business experience he has gained by working in various parts of the world as an aviation consultant. With professional qualifications in aircraft engineering, Dave also has a commercial pilots licence and instructor rating. He is passionate about the aviation industry and the opportunities it brings to the region. He sees a bright future for the greater Devonport region and the North West coast of Tasmania delivering the airports exciting master plan. Dave also holds the position of Chairman for the Chambers Industry Group.

W. Foster OUR TEAM



Julie Foster

Treasurer

Julie has over 25 years experience in the corporate finance sector working in senior management, Sales, HR and marketing roles. She is a director in her family owned surf retail business, Passport Surf and also runs her own consulting business juliefoster.com.au providing advice, support and training to small business owners. Julie is also a digital mentor with Switch Tasmania who are the lead provider for the ASBAS Digital Solutions Program to Tasmanian businesses funded by the Australian Government.



Paul Fielding

Paul is a hospitality professional encompassing 25 years experience across Australia in restaurants, hotels, cafes and event management, and now operates Marion Storm Maritime Café and Pinctada Kitchen at Providore Place here in Devonport. As owner/director at Fielding Agency, Paul works across a number of local tourism and hospitality marketing projects aimed to increase visitation and awareness for clients. He is surrounded by a very supportive network including wife and partner in business Claire and their four young daughters.



James Foster

James has a diverse history throughout the professional entertainment and audio industries with over 20 years international experience managing concerts and major special events, designing audio systems and shows of every size and complexity. He has extensive experience touring in the Oceanic and European regions.

As co-owner of events and management company, Circa 41, James works across a number of local, national and international entertainment markets, co-ordinating events and tours of all sizes for some of the worlds most discerning artists.

More recently, with wife Eve, James opened Frankie J's Pizza & Cocktail Bar within Devonport's Providore Place Precinct, with a clear vision to bring influences and ideas from abroad to a local market.

Meet OUR TEAM



Ian Macleod

Ian started up Ian Macleod Photography www.ianmacleod.com.au in 2019 following a career in Agricultural Research. From growing up on a farm it was a natural progression to work in Agriculture and led to 34 years with Serve-Ag / Peracto. From technical field roles through to Strategic and Operational leadership across Australian / New Zealand operations with global connections, Ian has developed a range of skills and broad industry connections.



Vonette Mead

Vonette has a 30-year career in construction and business development. Vonette has a wide range of management experience: Finance, Risk, WHS, Quality Systems, Strategic Planning, Corporate Governance. Councillor, community volunteer, committee member of business and recreational groups and board member of our local basketball association for last eight years. As an Master Builders Australia Ambassador for Women in Construction, Vonette emphasises the importance of the inclusion of women in roles throughout the construction industry.



Joanna Millis

Joanna is the secretary of the Devonport Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She has a background in a higher education setting and events management roles. Joanna moved to Tasmania from Queensland mid 2018 and enjoying the fresh air and lifestyle Tasmania has to offer.



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Platinum Members

7AD

SeaFM

Spirit Super

Diamond Members

The Old Woolstore

Impress Print

Custom Resources & Recruitment

Gold Members

Molly Malones Irish Pub

Spirit of Tasmania

Goodstone Group