

Shirebiz Inc Chairman's Annual Report 2020/2021

ShireBiz is your business driven economic development group comprising current and past CEOs and public sector leaders, providing their skills and experience to the Board. The main benefit of economic development continues to be **jobs** in the Sutherland Shire and Southern Sydney. We also provide a portal for supporters and local business to engage with Government at all levels on issues around economic development and job creation..

FAREWELL TO BARRY ALCHIN

Earlier this year we farewelled from the Board the Founding Shirebiz Chairman Barry Alchin. Barry has been extremely active across all Shirebiz activities for many years, but health issues have intervened. We take this opportunity to thank him for his great effort and wish him well into the future.

JOB CREATION

ANSTO Innovation Precinct

ShireBiz continues to support the expansion of the ANSTO Innovation Precinct at Lucas Heights. This year one of Australia's first technology business incubators, the Woods Centre underwent substantial refurbishment and was renamed as the *nandin* Innovation Centre. The *nandin* Innovation Centre achieved significant growth over the past 12 months growing to 27 startup members and creating over 60 jobs. The refurbished *nandin* Innovation centre was opened by the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian in June.

Several ShireBiz Board members acted as mentors to a number of the startups within the *nandin* community at ANSTO.

National Robotics and Automation Group [NRAG]

Members of NRAG have completed a feasibility study on a project involving the doping of Silicon ingots in the OPAL reactor pool. Discussions are underway on a number of material handling projects at ANSTO including the radiopharmaceutical activities.

Skills Audit

Following comments from various sections of the Shire community about the lack of skilled people to fill local jobs, Shirebiz is in the process of investigating a Skills Audit of Shire Businesses.

ADVOCACY

Toyota Park Shirebiz has strongly lobbied both local and NSW Government politicians to maintain the Toyota Park site as an industrial zone. We do not support the project recently approved by the Council as this will reduce the local land available for business..

Heathcote Road Bridge Shirebiz has supported local organisations requesting duplication of the bridge, to the NSW Government.

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

Events

Lunch with the NSW Premier: The NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian addressed a luncheon with over 200 members of the ShireBiz community at Doltone House on 12th February, on *Southern Sydney- Post Pandemic. What is planned for the Shire at Government level & what can we do to assist.*

Retail in the Shire Breakfast 27th May Three local business leaders discussed how they had built successful businesses in the Shire.

Quarterly Networking

Due to COVID restrictions two Quarterlies were held by ZOOM. On July 2nd 2020 NSW Minister for Finance & Small Business, **Hon Daniel Tudehope** spoke about assistance for business during the pandemic. In October **Curtis McNeice** of Energetics addressed the issue of energy pricing. In April 2021 **Liam Bailey** of Obrien Palmer Business Advisories spoke at the RMYC on *How to maximise the prospects of business rehabilitation*.

Bulletin From July 2020 the Bulletin has been circulated weekly to approx. 400 members and supporters.

Website The ShireBiz website and branding are getting a refresh and will be re-launched shortly.

The Shuttle “Turn-up-and-Go” Project along Port Hacking Road was completed in late 2020 and demonstrated that commuters can *Leave Their Cars at home* when there is a high frequency reliable service to the railway station morning and evening.

GOVERNANCE

Strategic Planning

The Board has been discussing future activities . At this stage it appears our major focus will be:

- Activities that support a workforce skills development strategy specific to advanced Manufacturing . There is a strong need for Science, Technology and Engineering skills with more technically sophisticated Apprenticeships.
- Reimagining Sutherland, creating a vision and proposed masterplan for Sutherland to be a new CBD for Southern Sydney.

Organisation Structure

At the AGM in July 2020 the Constitution was changed to allow the Committee to be changed to a Board with Committee members becoming Board members.

In 2020/21 the Board met monthly and the Board executive met regularly.

Finance: At 1st July 2020 account balance was \$9,871.88 At 30th June 2021 \$21,044.61

Expenditure has been mainly on events and website support. For details see the Financial Report..

Membership

At June 30th 2021 there were 30 individual and 22 corporate financial members, 1 Sponsor and approx. 400 supporters on the bulletin distribution list.

Paul Degnan
Co-Chair

Tim Boyle
Co-Chair