

## RESPONSES TO BURNIE ARTS COUNCIL INC QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR ALVWYN BOYD.

Answers obtained through verbal interview.

Qu 1: How would you describe the impact on the city in the wake of the decisions announced in May 2021?

Answer: Costs were escalating and the rates freeze made things very difficult financially. With COVID amongst it that created many changes in council. Visitation and attendance have also been affected, people are still not going out as they did. COVID has also impacted volunteer participation

Qu 2: The 'spirit' of the city feels broken and trust in council is at an all-time low. What is your plan to rebuild community trust and civic pride?

Answer: People could seem to be a bit bored. Events are very important to Burnie and they do lift civic morale, but even they need a refresh from time to time. The return of the cruise ships will help. Burnie Ten and 321 Go are still continuing. It would be good to have a New Year's Eve event. The work Jenny Cox and Russell Steers did over many years was excellent, but all events come with a cost to council.

Qu 3: Our reputation within the Tasmanian arts sector has taken a serious blow. What are your plans to salvage this, given the unveiling of the refurbished Arts and Function Centre (or whatever it will be called in the future), is unlikely to be completed until 2024?

Answer: Agreed it hasn't done us any good, and it will be a couple of years before the new building is completed. Intersection is a great initiative, the space looks good and there have been lots of people at the openings. The museum is going well with the volunteer-run model. Cruise ships returning will make a difference, and they will provide a chance for people to volunteer again.

Programming of the events at the Arts and Function Centre is critical. You need a good mix of styles of performance, those that bring the crowds in which make money for the centre, plus more higher end performances. These may not get as many people, but are important as they cater for everyone in the community.

Qu 4: With the benefit of hindsight, what key decisions (or actions which flowed from those decisions) could have been handled differently?

Answer: The hand-over of Makers' Workshop to the university. I've been very disappointed in how the university have behaved. The delays over construction on the car park site, for example, and all the problems with the Band Rooms.