



# August Newsletter

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## CEO UPDATE



As we step out of winter and into spring, I am thrilled to reconnect with each of you through our monthly BBAMZ newsletter.

In our previous newsletter, we highlighted some of the key initiatives and partnerships that have contributed to our success and heard about the ABEL Energy green methanol project, we had an update from the NEBHub team and the TasRail message around rail safety.

Since then, I'm pleased to share that we've seen significant progress in various areas, demonstrating our commitment to fostering sustainable growth and innovation.

In this newsletter we spotlight BBAMZ member Countrywide Hydrogen.

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## **BBAMZ now recognised as a peak body**

In further recognition of the work that BBAMZ has been undertaking for the past few years, the Tasmanian Government now recognises BBAMZ as a peak industry body.

This is an important milestone for the ongoing development of BBAMZ, as we now join other like-minded groups such as TMEC, TCCI and the regional Chambers of Commerce.

This is important for Bell Bay and the existing businesses here, as national and international businesses are looking closely at what Bell Bay has to offer and find that BBAMZ is the perfect front door for a clear explanation of the capability of existing businesses and the opportunities for new ones.

In turn, BBAMZ is able to advocate to government on important policy and practical issues to see the continued development of Bell Bay as a critical economic driver of the Tasmanian economy.

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## **Countrywide Hydrogen profile**

One of the first advocates and investors in a Tasmanian hydrogen industry is Countrywide. Many will recall them recognising Tasmania's potential for hydrogen production very early on in the piece.

Unlike other large-scale proponents, Countrywide have long recognised that small scale and local production of hydrogen to displace the use of fossil fuels in the transport sector is a crucial first step.

Countrywide CEO Geoff Drucker recently made the time to film an engaging interview with the team that explains much about Countrywide and why they love Tasmania so much.

Click below to hear more about Countrywide from CEO Geoff Drucker



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## Susie at the Regional Australia Institute Conference

The BBAMZ CEO Susie Bower recently attended and presented at the Regional Australia Institute Conference in Melbourne on how BBAMZ successfully established the collaborative model for regional economic development here in Bell Bay.

While we understand the importance of BBAMZ at a local level, it is pleasing to see the work that our member-businesses have done over the past five years has been recognised nationally as a highly successful model of regional businesses leading their own development by working together for a common goal.



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## Northern Employment & Business Hub

Since its inception, NEBHub have supported 424 people into employment.

This month our feature story is Keah who with support from NEBHub has gained employment and accessed the Job ready fund with Searson Buck, through funding provided by Jobs Tasmania.

The Job Ready Fund provides financial assistance of up to \$750 per applicant to assist and remove the financial barriers the new employee may encounter when entering the workforce or for the established worker looking to further develop their career.

Click on the link below to hear to Keah's story.



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## Hydrogen Update

Pleasingly, the progress of BBAMZ members Countrywide and ABEL Energy continues towards the establishment of this new industry. Countrywide are working hard at developing critical relationships with government and the private sector to bring their project aimed at the local delivery of hydrogen to fruition.

Of great interest is their relationship with a local Australian truck conversion company to convert American prime mover trucks from diesel power trains to hydrogen fuel cell propulsion. The key to enabling greater adoption of hydrogen into the transport economy is to make using hydrogen easy – and that means having as wide a range of hydrogen-using vehicles available as possible.

ABEL Energy, through their Bell Bay Powerfuels project, are also proceeding following on from securing a site in Bell Bay.

The decommissioned oil-fired power station between the Bell Bay port and Long Reach is an ideal site with access to the main power grid and the deep water of the Tamar River.

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## Introducing David Roach to the NEBHub team

David joined the NEBHub team in August and has hit the road running by interviewing a job seeker in his first half hour on the job and successfully placing a job seeker in to employment in his first week.

David will be supporting employers and job seekers in the George Town, West Tamar, Launceston, Meander Valley and Northern Midlands communities.

Click below to hear from David



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## Visit to the Deloraine Trade Training Centre

Susie and the NEBHub team recently had the pleasure of attending the Trade Training Centre at Deloraine High School to learn more about this highly-regarded facility and how it can help those looking to gain more qualifications for their future employment.

The Trade Training Centre delivers advanced manufacturing packages of learning aimed at developing skills and participants confidence. While there, our NEBHub team were guided around the facility by the passionate Ian Mackenzie, the manager and teacher of the facility.

Macca took the team on a tour of the amazing purpose-built facility and showed the team how students make Lego robots as a precursor to developing skills in computer-aided technology and how those applications are extremely important in a diverse regional economy.

The Trade Training Centre is an incredible asset for young students to make a successful transition from school to work or further education and training and is a shining light for other regional communities to follow their example.



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## Member Survey

The BBAMZ will be conducting a member survey to determine how BBAMZ is travelling as an organisation and what we can do better.

We know you are all busy doing what you do best, this survey is intended to be short and sweet, with the overall aim of learning how we can help you do more of what you do best.

As outlined earlier in this newsletter, BBAMZ is now recognised as a peak body, an advantage we need to make the most of for the benefit of our members.

Look out for the member survey which will be emailed to members in the next month.

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## Business profiles

Would you like the wider BBAMZ audience to know more about your business and what you do?

If you think this is a good idea and one that would suit you, like Countrywide Hydrogen has in this newsletter, let Susie know and we will make it happen.

[Email Susie](#)

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## Spread the news

There are a lot of great things happening in the Bell Bay area which the wider region would benefit from knowing about. The best way to get this message out is to share our newsletter with anyone who is interested.

It would be great if you could share this newsletter with your contacts and business associates who might not be in the Bell Bay area.

[Click here to subscribe to the BBAMZ newsletter.](#)

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## Save the date:

Thursday the 28th of September is our next General Members meeting, lunch at 12.30pm and the meeting commencing at 1.00pm.

Invitations have been sent out so don't forget to RSVP.

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## Key information on current grants/funding opportunities

### Federal Government Grant Information

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### Available Grants

- [Skills Tas Grants/Funding](#)
- [Business Tasmanian Grants](#)