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ShireBiz Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

11th January 2022

About ShireBiz

ShireBiz is a not for profit organisation dedicated to the Economic Development of Southern Sydney to enable sustainable business development which provides employment opportunities for the local community.

Our strategic pillars are:

- **Job Creation** through projects such as *Supporting the development of the ANSTO Innovation precinct*
- **Advocacy** such as *Improving Shire transport links*
- **Connecting the Community** through regular *newsletter*, and ZOOM and in person *events with prominent speakers*

Shirebiz supporters are invited to continue to support Shirebiz by becoming members. [Join at](#) If you want to regularly receive this Bulletin Contact the Secretary at info@shirebiz.org.au

Close contact rules change to get critical staff back to work

As several key industries begin to buckle under the weight of the staffing shortages caused by the rising tide of Covid-19 cases sweeping Australia, the NSW and QLD State Governments have [redefined work restrictions](#) for close contacts. The change will see critical workers in food distribution allowed to return to work at the discretion of employers in an effort to ease the food shortages currently impacting supermarkets.

Australian graphene discovery could unlock cheaper, more efficient li-ion batteries

Researchers at the University of Wollongong in Australia have discovered a new form of [graphene](#) that will improve anode and cathode materials in lithium-ion batteries, making them cheaper and more efficient. They are collaborating with Sicona, which has agreed to buy the researchers' intellectual property.

Korea Zinc strides towards green energy exports

Korea Zinc, the world's largest producer of zinc, lead and silver, has taken a major stride towards [exporting green hydrogen](#) from Australia to South Korea after it snapped up renewable energy developer Epuron in a deal that will give it access to a potential 9 gigawatts of wind and solar generation.

Electrical Vehicles and Batteries – an interesting analysis

Electric vehicles and what it takes to power them. Whether you are a proponent of electric vehicles or not, this is very interesting information. This is an unusual and [thought provoking](#) article by Bruce Haedrich.

Employing workers with disabilities is easy and cost-effective with government aid

When it comes to managing HR, the easiest way forward will usually be every CEO's first choice. Unfortunately, for many of the highly skilled and qualified workers out there that have a visible disability, the perception that they're going to be high maintenance employees keeps them from getting shortlisted as candidates. Not all disabilities require much extra consideration from employers, quite often it's simply a matter of providing a safe and nonjudgemental workplace and this is someone every human is entitled to, it shouldn't be an extra consideration just for workers with additional needs.

Will Australia's 'technology, not taxes' energy approach deliver net-zero target?

Australia's new Long Term Emissions Reduction Plan to deliver net-zero emissions by 2050 will rely on two trends: economies of scale to facilitate cheaper low-emissions energy production; and industry and consumers making the switch to an energy mix dominated by low-carbon sources. A \$20 billion investment in new technology by the Australian Government over the next decade may not be enough to precipitate at least \$80 billion of total private and public investment in clean hydrogen, carbon capture and storage

Supply chain issues to worsen as virus impacts transport sector

Between a third and half of transport workers are currently unable to work due to complications caused by Covid-19, according to the Transport Workers' Union, putting major stress on the supply chain and leaving supermarket shelves bare. Due to sickness or isolation, up to half of the country's truck drivers are missing, according to TWU national secretary Michael Kaine. "[We] have a completely predictable scenario where drivers are delivering rapid tests to be sold on the shelves of supermarkets and pharmacies, but they, like most Australians, can't access them themselves," Kaine said.

UTS develops a carbon-based biosensor to control robotic systems

A novel carbon-based biosensor has been developed at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and is set to drive new innovations in brain-controlled robotics. Developed by Professor Francesca Iacopi and her team in the UTS Faculty of

Engineering and IT, the biosensor adheres to the skin of the face and head to detect electrical signals being sent by the brain. These signals can then be translated into commands to control autonomous robotic systems.

CSIRO brings “Hope” to Australians with a new AI weight loss coach

The CSIRO Total Wellbeing Diet has today unveiled a new artificial intelligence (AI) weight loss coach, Hope, which uses psychological techniques to prompt and motivate members throughout their weight loss journey. Hope has been developed following research from CSIRO, which has uncovered the three critical behaviours that, when put into practice regularly, have the biggest impact for people looking to get healthier and achieve their weight loss goals.

What is Digital Marketing?

In terms of the marketing industry, digital marketing is still a relatively new concept , but one that is gaining great traction. With over 4.5 billion people across the globe actively using the internet, businesses have had to evolve and change the way they promote and sell their products and services. With this transition to the online universe, it's no wonder that digital marketing has earned its place on the stage.

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Regards,

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