



ShireBiz Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

18th 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

Shining a light on UNSW's self-healing 3D printed plastic

Research by UNSW academics shows that [special treatment](#) of liquid resin used in 3D printing can cause the material to mend itself if it becomes damaged. UNSW engineers have demonstrated a way to help 3D printed plastic heal itself at room temperature using only lights.

AFGC demands consistent, nationwide rules on Covid close contacts

[Nationally consistent rules](#) for managing Covid close contacts among essential workers are urgently needed, according to the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC). The comments follow worsening staffing challenges for supermarkets and suppliers described by AFGC CEO Tanya Barden as the greatest since the start of the pandemic. Staff shortages are severely impacting producers, shippers and retailers, with many supermarket shelves in parts of NSW and Victoria, particularly, bereft of fresh food and essential supplies.

NUW Alliance to deliver a step change for manufacturing industry

Comprised of four Australian universities, the [NUW Alliance](#) has launched its vision for a research collaboration to be centred on the Western Sydney Aerotropolis at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Facility. Made up of Western Sydney University, UNSW Sydney, the University of Newcastle and the University of Wollongong, the NUW Alliance is partnering with the University of Technology Sydney to accelerate collaborative innovation for the Western Sydney Aerotropolis.

Business purchase queries surge as people look to become their own boss

Business sales marketplace AnyBusiness.com.au expects a flurry of activity in [business purchase transactions](#), as a confluence of factors is igniting a strong interest in purchasing small- and medium-sized businesses. Mary Tamvakologos, Director of

Operations at AnyBusiness, said that the outlook is positive for the business market, amid a perfect storm of strong demand, low supply in businesses for sale and a strong recovery in consumer and business confidence.

Upskilling online with CQUni opened the pathway to success for Rick

Rick Mulvey's decision [to upskill](#) with CQUniversity's [Graduate Certificate in Asset and Maintenance Management](#) took his mining industry career into operations management. Taking on the course at 50 years old, the Central Queenslander was initially nervous about the online experience. "As an older student, initially returning to any sort of study was a little scary however, after gaining confidence and more time spent online, I came to enjoy the challenge and satisfaction gained from the completion of each module," he explained.

Businesses lose \$33bn to cyber criminals

The Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) estimated that a [cyber attack](#) was deployed every eight minutes over the period. "[Cyber crime](#) is a \$33 billion people issue, and there is an increased sophistication of attacks exploiting the human link, including advanced ransomware crimes, internal staff being manipulated by threat actors, and cyber criminals exploiting gaps in critical systems," said Wayne Williamson, CISO, Equifax Australia & New Zealand.

Q-CTRL lands US grant for automated quantum tech

Sydney [quantum pioneer Q-CTRL](#) will significantly expand its presence in America thanks to a US government Small Business Innovation Research grant. Q-CTRL was this week awarded \$230,000 in funding through the US Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) for a project looking at "automated calibration, characterisation and optimisation of near-term quantum processors".

[Update on extension of Transport for NSW \(TfNSW\) COVID-19 testing sites](#)

TfNSW acknowledges the efforts of the freight industry to continue to transport critical supplies across the country in challenging circumstances. As such, to continue to support the freight industry in managing its operations, the [six TfNSW COVID-19 testing sites](#) will remain open for asymptomatic testing

[World's largest free trade agreement enters into force – Media Release](#)

Today the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) comes into force, giving Australian farmers and businesses access to the [world's largest free trade agreement](#). Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan today welcomed RCEP entering into force for Australia, New Zealand, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Japan, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Republic of Korea will follow on 1 February 2022

[Inside Retail – Access to Master Classes](#)

Valued at \$85, [this offer](#) (including exclusive access to all 4 Masterclasses) is available for a limited time only. Not only will you get to participate in sessions with some of the industry's leading retailers such as Freedom Australia and Adore Beauty, you will also receive: Daily exclusive members only content straight to your inbox; Retail insights and intelligence; On-demand videos with industry professionals

[Warning: USB Stick Gift as a ransomware exploit](#)

Hackers are currently sending [ransomware-infected USB Sticks](#) to businesses and individuals. Two approaches are being used to deliver these dangerous USB sticks: **1. Pretending to be Health workers or Humanitarian Service agencies** and **2. Amazon Appreciation Gift** In either case, the USB sticks contain a very dangerous ransomware exploit kit which triggers and takes over the affected device once the victim inserts it on his/her device.

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Regards,

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