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ShireBiz Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

12th April 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

Supply chain and labour issues constrain industry expansion

The Ai Group Australian Performance of Manufacturing Index (Australian PMI) [increased](#) a further 2.5 points to 55.7 in March – the highest monthly result for the industry since July 2021. “The Australian manufacturing sector grew faster in March as manufacturers added new staff, lifted sales and continued to expand production (although at a slower pace than in February),” Ai Group chief executive Innes Willox said.

Council of Small Business Associations - March in Review

We've had yet another busy month at COSBOA in preparation for the National Small Business Summit in Sydney. The [event](#) will be taking place when you're reading this - make sure you're following all of our social media channels, and check our website for a summit wrap later in the week.

Mental Health Risk Management for Retailers

Mental illness is the [leading cause](#) of long-term sickness amongst Australian workers, with work-related mental illness costing \$543 million in workers' compensation claims per annum¹. It is widely reported that one in five people in Australia are living with a mental health condition².

Advanced manufacturing named priority area in rejigged research diplomacy fund

A \$60 million fund announced in last year's budget to support “strategically important science and technology collaborations” internationally features Advanced Manufacturing as a priority research area, with [the fund](#) also gaining a new “strategic element”. The Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund was introduced in

the 2021/2022 federal budget as a measure to consolidate international programs and focus on research themes identified as strategically important.

Net zero evolution

Built with precision and restraint and the clear intention of demonstrating that sustainability and environmental principles can co-exist with volume building philosophies, [SHINKA House](#) represents a blueprint for the future of the Australian suburban family home.

FoodTech Qld 7-8 July 2022

Connect and generate immediate leads with food manufacturing's top buyers. Make [FoodTech Qld](#) your destination for business in 2022. More than ever before, Australia's food and drink manufacturers are looking to invest in their logistics and supply chain to keep up with market demand and stay ahead of competition

FiFo Capital News Digest April 2022

After a bumper few months working on a new residential development, this plumbing and gasfitting business ran into some negative cash flow positions awaiting final payments from the development company. They were needing to [reinvest in additional materials](#) and hire new subcontractors to kick off work on a new medium-term project.

HSSO workforce development portal

The Human Services Skills Organisation (HSSO) has launched an [online portal](#) that gathers information about workforce development programs and initiatives in one place. It is designed to be used by employees, employers, organisations, registered training organisations (RTOs), educators, and peak bodies in human services as a

single point of reference to search and access content that is currently held in a multitude of locations.

More than one in 10 Windows users at risk

Avast's 2021 [Global PC Risk Report](#) analysed the threats that home and business Windows users encountered over the course of the past year, with Australian business users ranked 67th out of the 77 countries included in the report. On average, business users around the world had a 15.1% chance of encountering a threat, and in Australia, business users had a 12.78% chance of encountering a threat.

\$19 million in contracts awarded to companies developing tech for ADF use

A second round of contracts through the Defence Innovation Hub this week has been [announced](#), with nine companies awarded \$19 million on Thursday to develop new technologies for use by the Australian Defence Force. Among winners were: • RUAG Australia, awarded \$2.43 million to continue development of metal additive manufacturing techniques to repair components, • robotic manipulator company Blueprint Lab, which earned \$1.04 million to develop a remotely-operated system for performing underwater tasks.

government is acting to simplify and make fairer the rules governing 'unfair preference' claims by liquidators.

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Regards,

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