ShireBiz Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

30th January 2024

If you would like to receive this bulletin on a regular basis contact the Secretary on info@shirebiz.org.au

Business NSW – Conditions Survey

For many businesses, the 2024 economic outlook presents a multitude of challenges. This includes the ongoing skills shortages, weakening customer demand, recent supply chain disruptions, and the continued rise of business costs. **To improve the ease of doing business, we want to** understand what support businesses **like yours would appreciate from the NSW Government.**

New CEDA report calls for Dynamic Management Training to boost productivity

Governments could help drive innovation and productivity growth by adding dynamic capabilities training **to their business programs, new research by CEDA has found. CEDA members have identified falling productivity as one of the most critical**

challenges to achieving prosperity for all Australians and are seeking practical ways to address this.

Heart Research Institute – January 2024

Includes: **How to take care of your heart health; Get the facts about heart stress tests; Meet Elle a five-time open heart surgery survivor;**

Service NSW Business Bureau is here to help

Items include: **One of our recently upgraded tools is the Service NSW Business Bureau app; No smoking means no vaping; Free tools and resources to make hiring easier; Cut waste costs with the Bin Trim app; A free and fast way to start protecting your ideas; Contact a Service NSW Business Concierge to get support at every stage of your business journey; and Upgrade your password into a passphrase, to protect your data**

Realise Business - Want to know how to get more sales using AI in your online store

Upcoming free webinars & workshops: **Bookeeping essentials 24 Jan 11am-12:30pm; Creating the foundations for a successful business 24 Jan 1-4pm; Improve your business visibility 29 Jan 10am-12pm; Strategies to setup your website; Creating your digital marketing plan (face-to-face) 8 Feb 1-3pm and How to start your business (face-to-face) 21 Feb 12-4pm.**

Australian Retail Institute: *Retail Voice* January 24 2024

Articles include: **Australian retailers seek urgent resolution of DP World dispute; Save the date: First Responders Day 16 May 2024; How construal–regulatory mode fit increases social media sharing; 2023 Small Business Data Report Released by COSBOA and Small business needs to be ready for natural disasters**

Silex, Silicon Quantum Computing expand offtake agreement by $1.35 million

Silex Systems has announced an amendment to its 2019 offtake agreement with quantum technology business Silicon Quantum Computing**, increasing SQC's commitment for silicon products made from high-purity zero-spin silicon (ZS-Si) using Silex's proprietary laser enrichment technology. According to a statement from Silex on Tuesday morning, the total value of the commitment has increased by**

$1.35 million to $2.25 million "which will shortly be prepaid by SQC as an offset against future purchases" of quantum silicon products.

Breakthrough Victoria shells out $12 million for peanut allergy treatment developer Aravax

The Victorian government-funded Breakthrough Victoria **has made a $12 million investment into Aravax, part of a $66 million funding round in the biotechnology company, which is developing a novel peanut allergy treatment. Aravax is a clinical-stage company developing PVX108, its immunotherapy product that uses synthetic peptides to mimic key parts of peanut proteins to retrain the immune system, according to a statement.**

My Business: Your business Update January 2024

Items include**: Can employees refuse to work on Australia day?; New IRT Laws: What businesses must do; Get back top the office Will it prompt an exodus;** Employee crashes company car – who pays the excess?

Entech in the van of electronics revival

The 1980s and 1990s were optimistic times for electronics manufacturing **in Australia, with changing technologies allowing new companies to establish such as Entech Electronics in Adelaide, GPC Electronics in western Sydney and IntelliDesign in Brisbane. Like all manufacturing there have been ups and a lot of downs since then but the sector, surely the bedrock for any advanced manufacturing sector, is going through a period of growth as Australian companies have learned to exploit global supply chains and operate seamlessly internationally against the toughest of competition.**

80% of Australian retailers using AI, according to research

Four in five Australian e-commerce retailers are already leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) within their operations. This statistic comes from a new 'State of Commerce' report **released by both the Australian Retailers Association (ARA) and global software company Salesforce. Alongside 80% of e-commerce companies using AI, 33% have fully implemented the technology and 47% are currently experimenting. An additional 14% are evaluating if and how AI can fit into their operation, while 6% have no intention of using it.**

About Shirebiz

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

Our strategic pillars are:

- Advocacy for business investment, traction and job diversity eg projects such as supporting *the development of the ANSTO Innovation precinct*
- Advocacy for infrastructure investment, policy change and streamlining regulatory environments in the Sutherland Shire
- Engaging the community through regular *newsletter*, and e*vents*

Shirebiz would like to thank our supporters for your support over the last year

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**. We would also appreciate feedback on the content.

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Regards,

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