

MEDIA RELEASE

“BREED Chairman, Nathan Burbridge, a seven year veteran of the BREED Board, gave a heartfelt speech at the launch of the Temora Business Centre on the 3rd of December this year. His words outlined the long term vision for BREED Australia based on its history in youth education and employment by leveraging the Business Centre as a base and means to innovate and create new opportunities for BREED. Delivered with a passion, Nathan described the past, present and future of BREED Australia”.

Chairman speech by Nathan Burbridge - BREED Australia Inc – Opening of Temora Business Centre
Monday 3 December, 2018 - 5.30pm- 8.00pm, Meagher Building, Hoskins Street, Temora, NSW

Good evening ladies and gentleman. As the chairperson of BREED Australia; it is a privilege to be in your wonderful town; a town with such a history, a town with ambition and a town where community spirit runs deep. I want to acknowledge traditional owners of the lands in which we meet and pay my respects to elders past and present.

I am here representing my board of directors. With that, I want to thank them for their enduring support, a willingness to get amongst the weeds when needed and for conducting themselves professionally. We work together in good faith and always with the interests of the organisation front of mind.

I wish to make special mention of the honourable Steph Cooke, State member for Cootamundra who joins us today. We are delighted you could be here and for the support you have given us. We also know Temora, and this building has a special place in your heart.

To Mayor of Temora; Councillor Rick Firman, other elected Councillors who may be in attendance, President and Vice president of TBEG; thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to the partnership we have forged.

Thank you for reaching out to our organisation, for seeing the value our organisation can bring to your town, and the Riverina as a whole. This is a bold step for our organisation to take but with such willing and capable partners like you; I have every confidence we can succeed and make a positive contribution to the people and businesses of the Temora Shire.

Thank you for welcoming us with open arms. We are here tonight to open the first BREED Australia business centre in regional Australia. This is a significant milestone for our organisation.



As chair, a milestone I am very proud to have achieved. I want to focus the attention of my speech more on BREED Australia in totality; why we exist and what brings us to your town. I thought it important to provide a context beyond the business centre so you too can appreciate the significance of our organisation and why we say we are in the business of BREEDING



BREED Australia is a youth employment registered charity that help the long term unemployed, or those finding it hard to transition into employment. Our organisations roots are in the western suburbs of Sydney. We have been operating for 24 years with mostly government funded support like many other not-for-profit organisations.

We are one of 54,000 charities in Australia. That is lots of competition. However, rather than compete, we focus on what we can strengthen; that is our comparative advantage in the market place. What makes us uniquely different to any comparable organisation of our size

is we have the makings of a sustainable business model whereby funds generated from operating our business centre do help fund our youth employment endeavours. The business centre is where we help incubate and support small businesses to grow.

We provide office accommodation and specialised support including virtual office, administrative support, education and training for tenants but most importantly creating an environment for B2B engagement. We also appreciate that for some young people; transitioning into employment might start by them creating their own business or being mentored by those who have.

We are very clear with our purpose and vision. Our constitution reads and our charitable status was obtained upon the basis of youth and employment; helping those who are disadvantaged.

As chair of BREED Australia, I hold the organisation to this purpose at every turn. I do so because I am proud of our achievements and track record. In our 24 year history BREED Australia has:

- Organised 45,113 student work placements for year 11 and 12 students studying a school vocational subject
- Hosted and organised 14 career and job expos for schools across Sydney
- Supported over 400 students, through our work experience programs and our

Independent Employment Advisory program for highly

disadvantaged or disengaged youth to build their confidence and career aspirations

- Help instigate the implementation of the Work Inspiration Program in Australia; a program founded by British telecom wanting to make work experience for high school kids more valuable and enjoyable
- 1623 students have participated in our various career mentoring and job readiness programs
- Incubated over 160 businesses through our Business Centre at Blacktown
- In 2017 we delivered our Young Entrepreneurs Program (YEP) with partners Set2Learn and ILAB program for some 40 young people who are on the Autism spectrum.

As these achievements show, our work is profound, of scale and directly helps many young people get that kick start they need.

I have been a voluntary board member of BREED Australia for 7 years. I have been chairperson for 2 of those 7 years. Let me say this; I love BREED Australia.





There are many reasons why. I'm going to share with you one of those reasons; the why is simple for us. We do change lives.

In 2012, we delivered a program called mums with bubs education. It was a program funded via the School Business Community Broker program administered at the time by the Commonwealth government. It was set up for female school students. These students were also raising a child of their own. This program was a chance for them to re-engage in education with other young women just the same, in an environment that included their small children. We operated this program for 2 years with a cohort of about 60 students across that timeframe.

I chose to attend a celebration ceremony for some who had completed the program. I wanted to see first-hand the kind of differences we might be making.

The program emphasis was on job readiness but did have a part focus on numeracy and literacy. That was so these young women could catch up to their peers. After the ceremony,

all the attendees and students were mingling. I started chatting with a 15 year old young

Woman whose name I choose not to mention. This young woman I recall had an 11 month old child and attended the program with her mum. The discussion I had with this young woman went from superficial conversation dare I say to a more serious conversation the more I enquired. It turns out this young woman had been affected by drug addiction. She was now making steady progress and getting some form of education was her new goal.

I then turned to her mum, and I asked what her highlight was. She turned and with emotion said words to this effect. This hasn't just changed my daughter's life; it's changed my life too.

You see, and this is not uncommon but the young woman's mum was illiterate. She had spent many years covering up her limitations. But because she was attending these classes in caring for her daughters small child (as did many others), she too was learning. She smiled at me and told me she had recently read her first book. The book she read was to her grand-daughter. If I'm honest, I had no words to reply with. I still don't over 6 years later. I think about that young woman and her mum often. This is why I love BREED Australia. What we do really does BREED new beginnings differently to our competitors. We are on a journey of adapting our current business model to achieve new success.

We have been involved in youth and employment programs for almost a quarter century.

BREED Australia was founded from a research project which started in 1993. The research was funded by the then Federal Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET). The aim of the research was to explore ways government might stimulate economic and employment growth within particularly disadvantaged areas of Blacktown; a suburb 35km west of Sydney.

The research was clear as were the findings from it. The premise of our organisations very existence was around the concept that a lack of education attainment was the major factor contributing to high youth unemployment. In 2016, we undertook an in house strategic review. As part of that review we reconsidered that premise. When we examined this issue to see if that original assumption was still accurate; we quickly realised things were different.

Education attainment no longer guarantees full time work for a young person.

As you can attest I'm sure; it's taking as an example some University graduates nowadays over 2.5 years to gain a full time position. Young people, regardless of education or economic well-being are universally disadvantaged. That disadvantage we at BREED

Australia now call "the middle 80%" It was also clear to us the benefits of economic growth aren't necessarily spread evenly. Some of the young people living in regions are doing it tough.

The evidence base to us was overwhelming. It told us that if we were to truly espouse to our values as a youth and employment organisation; it was imperative we make big change ourselves. Our response was to go where the need is and expand into the regions.

We have been working with Temora Shire Council and TBEG for almost a year. From day one you have embraced the ethos of what our organisation BREED Australia is all about.

You recognise the important role you play in helping support and transition young people

from your community into local employment. You also see the benefits of fostering a small business incubator and how it can more directly help address youth and employment issues.

Retention of young people into your community is such a major challenge when competing with the attractions of larger towns and cities. I know this is a major driver for your economic development program; a rightful one too. To reinforce this; 20% of the population of Temora are aged 0-14. Yet only 7.2% are in the 25-34 age category. Employment diversity, a strong.

Local economy and resilient industries is what will attract young people to stay or move to the Temora Shire. The strong agricultural industry, burgeoning aviation sector and tourism are just a few on the many economic successes Temora can lay claim.

At BREED Australia we believe we can help by giving a shot in the arm to your small business community. All economies, no matter their size or scale are underpinned by the vital backbone of small business. Supporting small business is of course a foundation stone of BREED Australia. The value small businesses offer a community are profound.

In Temora, there are some 800 actively trading businesses. These are businesses with a turnover greater than 75,000 per annum and who generate GST. However, that does not account for home businesses, hobby businesses and those out there in your community who want to start their own business. I suspect the number of these businesses, while not accounted for in ABS statistics are just as prevalent. In coming to Temora, we want to help those businesses via our business centre. With that base, we will then find ways to directly connect young people to their business community, help you nurture their talents and find pathways for them into employment so they become lifelong residents of this wonderful town.

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to address you.

As I wind up, I wish to make special mention of Mr Craig Sinclair, Economic Development Manager for Temora Shire Council, Mr Keith Anderson, owner of the Meagher Building, Ms Tracey Lees our newly appointed Centre Manager for this facility and the board of TBEG, with particularly mention to Ms Melinda Gallagher.

Thank you to each one of you for your enthusiasm, going above and beyond to form this partnership, remaining patient and to show my gratitude for the collaborative nature in which you have chosen to work with us. We look forward to making this a success with you.

Lastly but by no means least, I want to acknowledge our main man Mr Bob Turner; CEO of BREED Australia. Bob has a history with Temora and has worked tirelessly to make this business centre happen. This role for Bob is certainly different to his esteemed career as a professional basketball coach and administrator with the Sydney Kings and National Basketball League (NBL). Be that as it may, Bob is as passionate for BREED Australia as I am. His conviction to see it succeed can be seen just by having a conversation with him. It's a delight to work with him and have him push the boundaries of our organisation. His drive, integrity, experience and resourcefulness have in only 15 months starting opened up many possibilities for BREED; not to mention the Temora achievement. I thank him for his perseverance and for the great professional relationship we have forged.

I remain optimistic that we will be opening many more business centres and taking the foundations of our organisation to help young people across our great country.

In closing, we have chosen to invest our own resources to disrupt the community sector, bring entirely new programs forward under our own steam and importantly help build regional communities as we go. Make no mistake, we are committed to our vision but we do need support of others to make that quantum leap. As I indicated, we are a registered charity. If anyone is taken by our story, we would love to talk with you and gain your support in the work that we do.

Thank you ladies and gentleman.

BREED
AUSTRALIA

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