

# Message from the Administrator



Last week I attended the Gippsland Business Awards ceremony where Gippsland businesses are showcased for their impressive endeavours. The awards have been celebrated for 22 years.

South Gippsland Shire Council is grateful to have the opportunity to recognise the vital role that business has to play in Gippsland's success by sponsoring an award for an area which is of critical importance to us all — tourist activities and attractions.

Tourism plays a major role in Gippsland's prosperity. It generates about \$1.4 billion dollars annually and employs around 7,500 people. The creation of these attractive jobs is vital to the growth and success of Gippsland.

As part of the ceremony it was wonderful to highlight one of our own attractions – the Great Southern Rail Trail – noting not only the great opportunity to visit our region but also the work we are doing to extend the trail from Leongatha to Nyora.

South Gippsland had three of our own finalists including:

- Accommodation: Llarrinda Bed and Breakfast, Foster North
- Food Wine Producers: Burra Brewing Co, Korumburra
- Mechanical Trades and Construction: CPK McLaren Motor Body, Leongatha

Being recognised as a finalist for such prestigious awards truly is a great feat. What a huge achievement it was to make it to this stage and I hope that all three businesses are proud of their efforts.

All of the finalists were commended for the energy and commitment which their achievement recognises and we know that they will continue to make a significant contribution to the future of Gippsland.

Attending these awards was an opportunity to reflect on the potential we have for our region and on the important role our dedicated businesses in South Gippsland have to play in the growth and development of our region.

**Rick Brown**  
**Administrator**