

Message from the Administrator



The Saturday before last SBS broadcast the Australian movie *Jasper Jones*.

It is a modern morality story which raises a number of modern social and cultural issues and is based around some teenage misfits in the 1960s and the suicide of one of their number.

I would not have noticed the film if my wife and I had not attended the Lyric Theatre's production of the play in Leongatha a few weeks earlier.

The lead actors were 17 years old and 16 years old and at least half the cast were in their teens.

The production was a practical demonstration of the talent and ability of young people in Gippsland

It also was a reminder of encouraging and enabling young people to pursue their interests and develop their talents and of the rewards which can come when people have the commitment and dedication to make the most of their talents and opportunities.

We are all indebted to those whose generosity of time and talent made this production possible.

It serves as an inspiration for those who have the determination and commitment to maximise their talents and pursue their dreams.

For me, seeing the talent of these teenagers on stage, I was conscious of the need to provide ongoing education and employment opportunities for our young people close to home. While many will want to undertake the rite of passage of moving away and asserting their independence, they should go knowing that there are opportunities to return.

For those who choose to stay, their choices should be broad and their fulfilment genuine. As Administrators if we can continue to foster economic development and growth in the municipality, then our talented young people can build their lives here knowing that they have security of opportunity, and that in time their families will have the same chances afforded them.

Rick Brown - Administrator