

Message from the Administrator



A few weeks ago I attended the launch of Pennicott's Wilsons Promontory Cruises.

Pennicott Wilderness Journeys is a Tasmanian eco-tourism operator which was encouraged by Parks Victoria a few years ago to consider the practicality of operating short cruises from Tidal River.

Support from the Federal Government made possible the research necessary to determine if it was possible to design a boat which could depart from and return to Norman Beach safely and without damaging the beach.

A result is three specially-designed boats built in Western Australia with wheels attached to get the boats off and on the sand.

Wilsons Promontory is a glorious part of Australia. Skull rock is a wonder of nature and the seals leave a lasting impression.

This initiative is great news for the Shire of South Gippsland and adds to the suite of tourist offerings around the Prom, including Wildlife Coast Cruises that depart from Port Welshpool.

Lots of people visit the Prom and various beaches during the summer in particular.

The challenge is for the Shire to derive as much benefit as it can from this influx of visitors.

It would be good if visitors to the Shire sampled more of our restaurants, stayed longer and visited other parts attractions in the Shire in addition to the Prom and the beaches close by.

Hopefully these cruises will be a catalyst for even more people to visit the Shire and do just that. If they do there will inevitably be the flow-on effect of extra jobs in the service industries, and the financial multiplier that comes with that.

The future of this region relies on being able to maintain the primary industry sector while at the same time growing the tourism market. It will be a challenge, but one that I think we're up to meeting.

Rick Brown

Administrator