

Administrators' Message



Although many of us may have recognised Remembrance Day a little differently this year due to the pandemic we hope that everyone was able to take their minute of silence to reflect, pay respect and remember those who have served and are still serving in our defence forces and those who have died or suffered in conflicts, wars and peacekeeping operations.

Remembrance Day is part of Australia's heritage and taking the time to recognise our traditions is important for our community. Despite the tumultuous times we have had this year it also serves as a reminder of how lucky we are to live in this nation and the hard times many endured long before us.

We are thankful to see the COVID-19 cases remain low across the state and a range of restrictions lifting. We would like to welcome back our visitors and part-time residents from Metro Melbourne now that the 'Ring of Steel' has been removed and we can now travel freely across the state. Our businesses in particular have been looking forward to having tourists return – we have no doubt that as we get closer to Christmas our visitor numbers will only continue to increase.

Speaking of businesses, we would like to acknowledge the great work our business associations and chambers have been doing at the moment. In particular the Korumburra Business Association's Shop Local campaign has been wonderful to see. By shopping local this Christmas we all make a positive impact on our local businesses and support our local economy. So well done to the KBA for all their hard work.

It has also been lovely to hear that the Mirboo Country Development Inc. has been successful in securing funding for the Revitalising Ridgway project. The Mirboo North Bendigo Bank has also been very generous and has gifted money for planters and maintenance for the project as part of their 10th anniversary trading gift. We look forward to seeing this project progress and congratulate MCDI for their efforts.

This week we also had the opportunity to hear a night of pitches from Startup Gippsland's South Gippsland cohort. The Startup Program helped participants build and scale their business or launch a new idea. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the participants and their 12-week journey through the program. We would like to congratulate all our participants and wish Chris Plumridge (Jet Streamer podcasting) and Katie Dawson (Cottage Garden Threads) all the best for the upcoming Gippsland-Wide Pitch Final.

Julie and our Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis were both thankful to attend the night. Kerryn was also a member of the judging panel and was thrilled to see our participants give their pitches and take part.

We also would like to recognise the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources; Latrobe Valley Authority; TAFE Gippsland; Regional Development Australia; Commonwealth Bank; AKQA; Telstra; our program mentors and speakers and our own Economic Development and Tourism team who all made the program possible.

Finally, we hope you all are staying well and are making the most of the warm weather and opportunity to connect with family and friends.

Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators