

# Administrators' Message



As restrictions continue to wind back, we can't help but be excited for what this means for our Shire. It has been a tumultuous year, but we have a new respect for just how lucky we are in this beautiful part of the state. We strongly believe that the easing of restrictions will have a positive impact on our local economy through increased tourism and family catching up over the Christmas period. This would usually be our busier time of the year, but with COVID-19, this period is more important than ever.

Not only is the Christmas period important for our tourism industry, it's also important for our local business owners. This Christmas, we encourage you all to shop locally to show your support for our businesses. Many businesses have been doing it tough due to COVID-19, so it would be great to support local where possible.

In South Gippsland, we are high achievers in the agriculture sector and our results at the Gippsland Excellence in Agribusiness Awards highlights that perfectly.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those businesses who not only walked away with an award, but those who got to the finalist positions. It is a huge honour to get that close, so be proud! The South Gippsland businesses that won an award were:

- Jaydee - Cows Create Careers – Joint Winner of the Excellence in Workforce Capability Award
- South Gippsland Dairy – Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award
- Schreurs & Sons – Excellence in Adaption to Change Award
- ViPlus – Excellence in Food and Drink Manufacturing (> 10 employees) Award
- Gurneys Cider – Excellence in Food and Drink Manufacturing (< 10 employees) Award

We would also like to congratulate Burra Brewery and The Sheep Show Podcast for reaching the final stages of the awards.

This week, we also saw the Victorian Government announce their 2020/21 budget. With a focus on economic and social recovery, Gippsland has fared well, receiving funding for some key projects and initiatives.

One of these is the \$23 million funding to build a new visitor centre and biodiversity sanctuary at Wilsons Promontory. Wilsons Promontory is one of the biggest drawcards to our region, so having this support coming from the State Government shows us our contribution to Victoria's tourism doesn't go unnoticed.

The State Government also announced a long-awaited upgrade to Korumburra Secondary College. This will help bring the school up to date with all the latest technologies.

Staying in Korumburra, we're happy to announce that Coal Creek Community Park and Museum will be reopened to the public from 5 December. After nearly 10 months of the doors being closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, it will be great to see people coming back and enjoying the historic park.

With the holiday season getting closer, we hope you all stay safe and well. Enjoy the time with your family and friends after what could only be described as a tough year.

**Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators**