

Mayor's Message



This week, I attended the Foster Show. It has always been a popular event for locals and others who travel to Foster to enjoy it. It was very busy and well attended. My husband John and I took our grandson along with us. He loved all the animals and enjoyed spending time at the sheep dog trials, pigmy goats, cows, Clydesdale horses, chickens, ducks and donkeys. The dog high jump also proved very popular and was quite entertaining. It is always fascinating what those dogs can do.

Staying on the subject of events, a number of Councillors attended the Dinner on the Mount. This is a valued local event that has been disrupted due to COVID-19 over the past two years. It is also a long-honoured tradition that the residents of Mount Eccles and surrounds support wholeheartedly. Before, during and after a fabulous dinner, locals use the opportunity to catch up on local and personal news. This year, following the hiatus, residents particularly enjoyed being together once again. I would like to thank Deputy Mayor Hersey and Councillors Keerie, Darakai, Schelling and Felton for attending this event and representing us all so well. From the pictures, I'm sure you were well fed!

I also attended the first birthday of the Bass Coast Country University Centre. While this falls outside our traditional South Gippsland boundary, I believe it is important to recognise the fabulous work of the board and the opportunities that this centre provides for our entire South Coast region. Education opens our minds to what is possible and having been an early year's educator for many years, I strongly believe in the power of education at all stages of life. I am still learning, and I love having those opportunities.

There was some great news this week about the Wilsons Promontory revitalisation project. For those of you who haven't heard about this project, it is a significant project that will deliver new and upgraded walks, new accommodation options, improve visitor accessibility, revamp the Tidal River precinct and better manage traffic, congestion and parking at the Prom – a key national and international tourism destination in our beautiful South Gippsland. Part of this revitalisation also includes the construction of a 10-kilometre predator-proof exclusion fence to better protect our fauna and wildlife within this 50,000-hectare conservation sanctuary.

This week, tenders opened for the construction of the predator-proof exclusion fence – a \$6 million project and part of the total \$23 million investment from the Victorian Government. This is a great step forward on this project and we thank the Victorian Government for putting this

level of funding into one of South Gippsland's largest and most popular tourist attractions.

To end this week's message, I would like to do a call out to anyone who has a spare couple of hours a week. Council is looking for volunteer L2P mentors to support local kids in getting their licence. It is a very rewarding role to play in our communities. If you would like to put your name forward or need some more information, please contact the L2P coordinator Denise Trani on 5662 9200 or email deniset@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

I hope you all stay safe during the rainy weather we are expecting over the course of quite a few days, and remember – if roads are flooded, please avoid driving on them.

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor