

Mayor's Message



Last Friday, I attended the Gippsland Business Awards where I presented the award for Tourism Activities and Attractions. Our region was well represented at the event and I would like to congratulate all of the finalists. Just making it as a finalist is a massive achievement, but one of our local businesses went all the way – twice! Congratulations to Gurneys Cider for winning the Food and Wine Producers category, but also Business of the Year. Gurneys are no stranger to winning awards, especially at the Gippsland Business Awards, and they thoroughly deserve it based on how hard they have worked to build such a successful business for our region. If you haven't already visited them, I recommend you do.

I would also like to congratulate all the other winners and finalists. It was a fantastic night to celebrate Gippsland business and it is always great to see the depth we have.

A few weeks ago, I mentioned two opportunities to engage with Council. Both of these opportunities are closing soon (Sunday 11 September) and I encourage you to get on to yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au and participate.

One of these projects is the Domestic Animal Management Plan review. This Plan is a four-year document that provides a strategic approach toward the promotion of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. Over the past week, some face-to-face sessions have been run across South Gippsland. There is also an online session that will be taking place on 8 September between 7.00pm and 8.00pm. You can register at yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Responsible pet ownership is a responsibility for all of us – we all play a part. Talking to you, our community, early in the development of the Plan means that we can better reflect your views throughout the Plan. So please reciprocate get involved and make your voice heard.

The other opportunity we have is regarding a proposed new shared path in Foster along Station Road between the Great Southern Rail Trail and Pearl Park. Feedback on this project will help inform the development of concept designs that will improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

Last Friday 2 September, I attended the Rural Councils Victoria Forum alongside CEO Kerry Ellis and our representative Deputy Mayor Hersey. This was a great opportunity for us to get together with people from likeminded councils and discuss our advocacy projects. Opportunities like this, to connect with our colleagues from across the State, is one I never take for granted.

Learning is a fundamental part of life, and local government is unlike many sectors in how willingly we all share information with each other so we can learn and improve.

Last week, I told you about a drop-in session for those interested in the Commonwealth Government's offshore renewable energy project. The session was held in Leongatha on 1 September and was well represented by concerned community members and those who wanted to understand the proposal better. After attending the Yarram session, which fit better into my schedule, I have walked away with a broader understanding of the proposal and the pros and cons. I strongly encourage you to learn all you can in this space and get involved in this consultation, which you can do by visiting <https://consult.industry.gov.au/oei-gippsland>

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor