

Mayor's Message



I had a very busy week this week, attending many events throughout the Shire such as the opening of the Leongatha Men's Shed and the Welshpool and District Horticultural Society Spring Show. The Leongatha Men's Shed opening was extremely well attended, including Danny O'Brien MP and other dignitaries. It is also a great achievement by them to fund most of this project through selling kindling!

Events like this are bringing South Gippsland back to life after the pandemic, and I can't stress enough how great this is for our region.

It was also great to attend the Korumburra Cenotaph Rededication Service last week. It is a lasting memorial to those who have served and lost their lives fighting for our country. I felt very moved by the service and thank those who were involved in organising and running the service.

On Thursday, I attended the South Gippsland and Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network's 'Inspiring Young People Luncheon'. This event is run for Year 11 students and aims to demonstrate how school industry partnerships and the community can add value to young people's skill development, learning journey and career aspirations.

During my opening address, I gave the students some details about me, what it's like being a Mayor and some words of wisdom. I focused my speech on different paths to careers and encouraged the students that your ATAR isn't the end of the world, just a moment in time. To help, I used an example of if they remember their birth date and their weight. Their birth weight was really important at the time, but not something that matters now.

There is a lot of pressure put on students at the tail end of their secondary schooling to have all the answers. Career changes are the norm now, so we should be encouraging our students to learn as much as they can and to not be afraid of changing their mind.

With my background in early childhood education, and after raising six children, I am very passionate about our young people. As such, I was pleased to hear that as a result of the recent Youth Council information session we now have a small but enthusiastic group of young people who are keen to apply for the Youth Council. Further information sessions will be held in the coming weeks, so keep your eyes peeled for those.

On Wednesday, Councillors had briefings from a number of new energy proposals. This is a very topical conversation for us to be having and it is extremely important that we learn as much

as we can about these proposals and the technologies they will be using. It is also important that we learn about the impacts on our region and the opportunities we have moving forward. I encourage you all, as we have, to learn as much as you can about these technologies and project proposals.

On Friday, I attended the monthly One Gippsland meeting where we heard from the Shadow Minister for Local Government, Housing and Resources, Richard Riordan MP. These meetings are a great opportunity for us to collaborate with other Councils and hear information and proposals from parliamentarians. The lead up to the State election makes it even more important to hear from all parties about their commitments and policies if they come into power.

On Saturday, I attended an exciting announcement at Gurneys Cider with Tom McIntosh MP who was a representative for Minister for Tourism, Sports and Major Events the Honourable Steve Dimopoulos. Gurneys has been an extremely successful business in South Gippsland recently winning the Gippsland Business of the Year award. Congratulations to them for another exciting chapter in the Gurneys Cider story and thank you for allowing me to attend.

I hope you all have been able to enjoy a South Gippsland event this weekend, despite the sometimes unfavourable weather.

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor