

Mayor's Message



Local Business

Small businesses are vital to the success of our region.

Along with Deputy Mayor Williams and Councillors Davies, Schelling and Rae and officers from Council's Economic Development team, I recently met with the Victorian Small Business Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith.

The main topics of discussion were around the support that can be offered through the office of the Commissioner to our local businesses.

Councillors also took the opportunity to share the many opportunities and concerns of some South Gippsland businesses that are working through transition from traditional industries to new and emerging industries.

Two of our South Gippsland businesses were recognised at the Gippsland Business Awards last week. Congratulations to CPK McLaren MotorBody in Leongatha for winning the Mechanical Trades and Construction award and Burra Brewing Co for winning the Hospitality award. Harman Wines who have wineries all over Gippsland, including in Arawata, also won the award for Food and Wine Producers.

We have some truly spectacular businesses of all sizes in South Gippsland who support our economy, tourism and simply make our region the best place to live.

Shrine of Remembrance Exhibition

The official opening of the *Changed Forever: Legacies of Conflict* exhibition at Coal Creek happened last Thursday evening. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it a lovely night.

The exhibition is now open during Coal Creek's business hours until 4 December. I encourage you to get along and experience this terrific display of human stories and emotion.

More information on the exhibition can be found at: www.shrine.org.au/changed-forever-legacies-of-conflict-exhibition

New Energy

Last week, the Gippsland New Energy Conference was held in Sale. I attended the conference along with Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis.

We heard from a range of speakers about the opportunities and challenges Gippsland will see as a transition to renewable energy is undertaken. Our region will play a role in meeting the Government's renewable energy targets. South Gippsland Shire Council will continue to advocate for long-term infrastructure improvements, real local benefit, and ongoing jobs.

Encouragingly, there were announcements made around offshore wind, including the removal of the coast west of Wilsons Promontory from being considered for offshore wind development, and the desire of Qube and Star of the South to utilise Gippsland ports for operations and maintenance, therefore seeing local jobs created.

Electric Vehicle Charging

South Gippsland Shire Council is installing electric vehicle charging stations across South Gippsland with funding from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and the State Government's Destination Charging Across Victoria Program.

One of these stations has been installed in front of Council's offices in Leongatha and will be operational from the week beginning 11 September.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor