

Mayor's Report – March 2018

The Eaglehawk Neck Gala Fair held on 10th February saw approximately 1500 people attend the Eaglehawk Neck Hall and grounds. The Fair grossed over \$6,000.00 which supports the Hall continuing on for the benefit of the local and wider community with their film evenings, family days and monthly markets. The cost of maintaining and insuring the Hall is considerable; congratulations must go to the committee and the sponsors of the Fair which ensures that the Hall will be available for events in the future. The Hall committee announced that the gate takings would be donated to the Tasman Youth Program with just over \$1,000.00 raised on the gate. These funds will be much appreciated by the youth of Tasman.

The Koonya Garlic Festival day dawned on the 24th February with a great deal of the much needed rain we have all been waiting for. The rain did not deter people from attending the day fortunately. There were many great food stalls doing a roaring trade, wonderful music, cooking demonstrations and talks and information on how to grow garlic all held undercover in the Hall and the large marquee. Another wonderful event run by local volunteers, they did a fantastic job, thanks to the sponsors and all that contributed on the day.

A further update regarding progress on the Local Government amalgamation process.

Following on from my report in the January 2018 Tasman Gazette, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council has now formally withdrawn from the process. This leaves Sorell and Tasman Councils to participate in the Local Government Board due diligence review due to be completed in May 2018.

The Local Government Board announced in the Mercury on Saturday 24th February the dates and options for the public and the Council to make written or verbal submissions to the Board. Further information is available on their webpages. Tasman Council will also have information available at Nubeena.

The Local Government Board's preferred form is written submissions. Written submissions are due by Friday, 6 April 2018 and may be emailed to lgboard@dpac.tas.gov.au or mailed to: Sorell and Tasman Councils Review Submissions, Local Government Board, GPO Box 123, Hobart, Tasmania 7001.

The Board will also hold public hearings to provide an opportunity to make a verbal submission (by booking an appointment by Monday, 19 March 2018).

The public hearing dates will be:

- Hobart – at RACV/RACT Apartment Hotel on Monday 26th March 2018 from 3.00pm;
- Tasman – at Tasman Council Chambers in Nubeena on Tuesday 27th March 2018 from 3.00pm.
- Sorell – at Sorell Council Chambers in Sorell on Wednesday 28th March 2018 from 3.00pm.

If you have any questions and to make appointments, please do not hesitate to contact the Local Government Board at lgboard@dpac.tas.gov.au or on (03) 6232 7022.

By the time you read this I expect the State election to have been run and won. We are all interested to know what the outcome will be and how this plays out for the Tasman and south-east over the next term. Our requests for Federal and State Government assistance to ensure long term project planning, policy and funding are rolled out in a coordinated, timely and sustainable way remains to be seen.

The south-east has undergone something of an economic and popularity renaissance in a comparatively short space of time and it is incumbent on all levels of government and the private sector to work together to ensure those elements that make the Tasman region in particular so popular, are not damaged or destroyed. It is easy to gloss over and underestimate the cumulative economic generation the Tasman underpins for the State. Just how strong would the tourism and visitation growth forecasts be without the Port Arthur Historic Site, 3 Capes Track, Shipsterns Bluff, game fishing, Pirates Bay, Fortescue Bay, Coal Mines and associated private sector investment including Pennicott's Wilderness Journeys, McHenry Distillery, Bangor, Port Arthur Lavender, Osborne Aviation, Remarkable Lodge, Stewarts Bay Lodge? And that's not including the primary industry resources of Forestry Tas (now Sustainable Timbers Tasmania), Tassal and other aquaculture businesses.

With regard to the State Election on the 3rd March, time will tell.....