

COMMUNITY UPDATE

AUGUST 2017

FROM THE CEO



We hope this update helps to keep you informed about the work of the Latrobe Valley Authority underway in our community.

We are working closely in partnership with local government, businesses and community to deliver the priorities for this region in the way that local people want this community to grow.

While we work to support our current workforce to help them transition to new jobs, training and retirement, we are also working with our partners to develop future opportunities to ensure our workforce is well prepared and aligned with the growing industries in our region.

We are working closely with local businesses to help them grow and expand, and with new businesses looking to establish in the Valley.

Many of the community projects underway will ensure our community is vibrant, healthy and well prepared for the future.

Karen Cain
CEO, Latrobe Valley Authority

GROWING OUR ECONOMY

NEW ENERGY PROSPECTUS

Launched at the highly successful New Energy Technologies Roundtable at Federation University in June, we are working with new energy businesses and organisations to develop Victoria's first region-specific renewable energy investment prospectus – which will set out how the Latrobe Valley can position itself as a key exporter and attract investment in new energy technologies.

BUSINESS ACCESS TO LARGE PROJECTS

Industry Capability Network representative Colin Young is based at the LVA office helping local businesses to access opportunities to work on large projects in our region and beyond, such as elements of the \$2.3 billion High Capacity Metro Trains (HCMT) project. Contact Colin on 0438 753 428 or email cyoung@icnvc.org.au for further information.

GIPPSLAND HI-TECH PRECINCT

As construction of the Gippsland Tech School commences in Morwell, the masterplan for the entire Gippsland Hi-Tech Precinct will show how the Tech School and Precinct will be co-located. The Precinct will provide a pathway for local students between secondary school, higher education and research and job opportunities.

The purpose-built Precinct, will be a centre for innovation, productivity and job creation, and though located in Morwell, will be virtually connected throughout the region and beyond.

BACK TO WORK SCHEME

Almost 200 local businesses and unemployed people have benefited from the Back to Work Scheme since it opened in January. The Scheme provides \$5,000 to employers who hire an unemployed person who lives in Latrobe Valley (\$3,750 for a part-time job). Businesses that provide accredited training may be eligible for an additional \$4,000 in reimbursed costs for the employee. Due to the high demand the scheme has now been extended for a further 12 months.

EXPANDING LOCAL BUSINESSES



The Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund, managed by Regional Development Victoria, has leveraged more than \$14 million in local investment and created 152 jobs in businesses across the Latrobe Valley region, including:

- > Victoria Valley Meat Exports (73 jobs)
- > Latrobe Valley Enterprises (24 jobs)
- > Flavorite Tomatoes (33 jobs)
- > Dicky Bill Farming (15 jobs)
- > Mawarra Centre (7 jobs)

SUPPORT FOR WORKERS

FOLLOWING UP

The Worker Transition Service continues to provide direct individual support for registered workers affected by the closure of Hazelwood. We are currently following up workers who have registered with the service. This helps us determine what further services workers may require, what has been helpful, and how we can continue to support them.

REGISTER NOW

If you or someone you know has been retrenched as a result of the closure of Hazelwood power station and haven't yet registered with the Worker Transition Service, you are encouraged to do this now. Our staff are helping with:

- > Connecting to jobactive service providers who hold \$2000 funding to pay for work related items, training or professional services. You must register within six months of receiving your retrenchment letter to access this credit.
- > Support to apply for new roles and access training. Staff have been supporting people to apply for roles advertised as part of the Worker Transfer Scheme, which is helping affected workers to remain in the power industry by supporting early retirement of workers at other power generators.
- > Connecting clients to employment opportunities. Employers regularly approach the Worker Transition Service with roles in the Latrobe Valley region.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES STRONG

UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

As part of a major investment in local sports facilities and programs, Collingwood Football Club is leading an alliance of sporting organisations to bring sporting identities, elite sports with regular games, coaching clinics and carnivals to the Latrobe Valley. There will be some exciting

announcements about major sporting events to take place in our region coming soon.

LATROBE REGIONAL GALLERY

Congratulations to Latrobe City Council on completing the \$1.5 million Latrobe Regional Gallery refurbishment project on time

to host the *Rene Magritte: The Revealing Image* exhibition from 19 August, which aims to attract up to 30,000 visitors to the region. The upgrade provides the gallery with international museum accreditation and was funded jointly by Latrobe City Council and Latrobe Valley Authority.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMUNITY FACILITY FUND RECIPIENTS

The Community Facility Fund provides grants to community groups for projects that make the Latrobe Valley a great place to live, work, and visit.



GRAND RIDGE RAIL TRAIL

- > Boolarra Folk Festival
- > Broadening Horizons
- > Walhalla Museum and Research Centre
- > GEST Latrobe Community Hub
- > Grand Ridge Rail Trail



TRARALGON PARKRUN

- > Warragul Gymnastics Club
- > Maltese Community Centre
- > Traralgon parkrun
- > Latrobe Valley Racing Club
- > Yarram Recreation Reserve
- > Neerim Memorial Hall



MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE

- > Gippsland Immigration Park
- > Warragul Business Group SnowFest
- > Old Walhalla Post Office
- > Morwell ANZAC Centenary Committee

CONTACT DETAILS

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LATROBE VALLEY
AUTHORITY