

Summit bookings close soon

Bookings for the 2018 Rural Summit, to be held in Lakes Entrance from 16-18 May, close on May 9.

The Rural Councils Victoria Rural Summit is RCV's key annual event. It provides a forum for councillors and officers, local business and industry leaders, economic and community development practitioners, academics and education providers, relevant decision makers and anyone passionate about rural prosperity to examine the unique and diverse challenges faced by rural municipalities.

It is also viewed as an important networking event by RCV's members.

This year's summit is being hosted by East Gippsland Shire Council, with the theme of Rural Liveability – Victoria's Backyard.

The event program aims to equip rural councils, leaders and residents of rural communities with the necessary information, skills and capacity to respond positively to ever-changing environments.

The event program is:

Thursday 17 May: Morning:

LIVEABILITY IN REGIONAL VICTORIA. HOW DO WE SEE THE FUTURE?

- Chris Riddell Keynote Speaker-Global Futurist & Strategist
- Daniel Miller-General Manager On Country, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)
- Kerry Anderson-Director, KA Rural Enterprises
- James Flintoft-Chief Executive, Regional Development Victoria

Afternoon:

WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT DEVELOP LIFESTYLE OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES?

- Laura Murray-President, Planning Institute of Australia
- Anton Eisenmenger-Owner/Chef, The Long Paddock
- Richard Cornish-Food Writer/Author
- Charles Davidson-CEO/Founder/Director, Peninsula Hot Springs
- Paul Matthews-Head of Regional Tourism and Strategy, Visit Victoria
- Crystal Stubbs-Director, East Gippsland Art Gallery Liz Zito-Director of Partnerships, Regional Arts Victoria

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRIES IN SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Scott Lawrence-Regional Director Eastern, VicRoads
- Stuart Othred-Senior Planner Mobility Futures, RACV

Friday 18 May

IN RURAL ENVIRONMENTS WITH DIVERSE CHALLENGES WHAT MODELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY BEST SUPPORT AND ATTRACT FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES?

- Claire Madden-Keynote Speaker, Social Researcher, Media Commentator and Trainer
- The Hon Peter Walsh - Leader of The Nationals. Shadow Minister for Decentralisation
- Matt Pfahlert - Chief Executive Officer, Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship
- John Smithies-Director, Cultural Development Network

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HOW DO WE SELL REGIONAL VICTORIA TO AUSTRALIA?

- Michael Bailey - Rural Councils Victoria Ministerial Presentation

To book, go to <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=349719&>

A full program for partners of delegates has also been developed, with more information available at <http://us17.forward-to-friend.com/forward/>

Forum a success

A highly successful Mayors, Councillors and CEOs Forum was held at ZINC, Southbank on May 11.

The event was attended by about 100 delegates with guest speakers including The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC, Minister for Regional Development and The Hon Matthew Guy MP, Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Victorian Liberal Party.

Others includes Tribus CEO Dean Landy, Urban Enterprise's Paul Schipp who updated delegates on the Rural Population Growth Policy, Dench McClean Carlson's John Stevens who provided information on the Rural Workforce Development Plan, the Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship CEO Matt Pfahlert, who showed a video on the impact the Social Enterprise workshops were having with participating councils and Regional Development Victoria CEO James Flintoff and his directors.

Afternoon speakers included Local Government Victoria Executive Director Graeme Emonson, Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission CEO Alistair Maclean, Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate Chief Municipal Inspector David Wolf.

An overview and update of RCV advocacy efforts was given. A copy of presentations is available on the website.

Workshops bringing benefits

A video featuring member councils who have taken part in social enterprise workshops to date have highlighted their positive impact.

The video available on the website, features workshop participants from East Gippsland and Wellington councils.

They say that the workshops have made them

think more broadly about social enterprise and how it can apply to them in their work setting and how to focus their energies on bringing about positive changes.

The video also includes an interview with East Gippsland Shire Council CEO Gary Gaffney, who says that the collaboration which has been displayed at the workshops has led to many positive outcomes.

Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship CEO Matt Pfahlert said those who were contemplating holding a workshop should view the video to see how it brought about clear benefits.

"We have been thrilled with how the workshops have been running," he said.

"We are working in partnership with RCV and what is exciting is that we are seeing the business models, theories and concepts attached to social enterprise are up and running already in communities and people are thinking about how they can do more so that they can benefit local communities.

"Rural communities really appreciate the fact that they need to create opportunities for young people and as traditional jobs fade away and dwindle, the jobs of the future are going to be created by young people so they need to skills and mind set to be able to put their ideas into action.

"Local communities need to rally the troops and support them – once we lose our young talent, we see our future dwindle before our eyes.

"What we are seeing in these workshops are people who are loving what is happening with social enterprise so I would encourage people to book their program."

To find out how your council can benefit from social enterprise workshops, contact ACRE on (03) 5728 2916.

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