

Nothing beats good service

Pictured: Lorraine Paulet, Glenda Gibson from Traralgon Chamber of Commerce, Darren Chester and small business owner Adam Dyer discussing local businesses



Putting locals first to create more jobs

THE Nationals Member for Gippsland Darren Chester is urging Latrobe Valley small business owners and local residents to work together to create jobs in the region.

Mr Chester is joining with State MP Russell Northe to promote a 'Putting Locals First' message which encourages the community to spend their money supporting local shops and service providers.

"We should never underestimate the importance of spending our money in our local community," Mr Chester said.

"In difficult economic times, we face the uncertainty of higher unemployment, particularly among young people, but by working together, we can create our own mini-boom in the Latrobe Valley.

"Every dollar that we spend in our local towns, helps to create another job for a local resident. Shopping locally, hiring local tradespeople or using local services all contributes to the local economy."

Mr Chester and Mr Northe regularly meet with local business organizations and are encouraging small business owners to 'return the favour' and hire local staff.

"Many of us got our start working in after school jobs at local shops," Mr Chester said.

"That experience is invaluable for young people because it gives them responsibility and allows them to develop a good work ethic, interpersonal skills and an overall sense of what it takes to be a good employee."

Mr Chester said supporting local businesses was a long-term investment in the future of the region.

"Too many people make the mistake of traveling outside the region to find something that could have been

sourced in Gippsland. By the time you factor in the cost of petrol and difficulty in receiving any follow up service, it is better to put locals first and buy as much as you can from local businesses," he said.

"It's the same with buying products over the internet. Each time we buy online from an international supplier we are reducing the job opportunities for local residents.

"Don't forget, it's the local businesses that we rely on week after week to sponsor local sporting and community organisations."

"If we support our local businesses, there will be more local jobs in the future and we will stop exporting so many of our best and brightest young people to the city.



Pictured: Darren Chester, Advance Morwell's John Guy, small business owner Marg Norder, and Russell Northe, Member for Morwell promoting the *Putting Locals First* message

Recognising region's history

THE Nationals Member for Gippsland Darren Chester is supporting Gippsland Immigration Park Committee.

The committee has already successfully established the Gippsland Immigration Wall of Recognition and is seeking government support to develop a new facility.

"The Gippsland Immigration Park Committee, is determined to ensure that the contribution of people who came to Gippsland as immigrants is not forgotten," Mr Chester said.

"This group of active community members have lobbied and worked to establish a memorial park and wall of recognition that marks over 160 years of immigrant history.

"The proposal to build a cultural centre and museum will pay further tribute to the enduring spirit of the immigrants. I commend the Gippsland Immigration Park's Committee for their vision and will continue to support their efforts to recognise an important facet of our cultural heritage."

Further information on the Gippsland Immigration Park can be founded at their website: www.gippslandimmigrationpark.com.au



Pictured: Darren Chester and Don Di Fabrizio