



COMMITTEE FOR

**GREATER
SHEPPARTON**

**2019
Annual Report**

WWW.C4GS.COM.AU

Connecting with the community

Each year Committee for Greater Shepparton includes a graphical representation for the cover of the Annual Report, whether it is a photo that depicts the heart of the Goulburn Valley, a sunset that makes you glad to live in such a wonderful part of Australia or the amazing art of one of our talented local artists. We aim to create a report showing the activities and impact of the Committee while showcasing the Goulburn Valley and its community.

Throughout the year the Committee are involved with many community organisations who are all working hard to create a difference. True to our inclusive strategic pillar, this year we decided to feature pieces from ConnectGV's art program. This program allows the residents of ConnectGV to express themselves through art under the guidance of their teacher Julia Thomas. We chose from a range of Picasso themed works and while there was an impressive and diverse range of expression and talent, we selected two pieces, created by Julie-Anne Watt and Kim Rivett. The pieces are striking and bold, and we are proud to feature them in our report. Congratulations to all the staff at ConnectGV - it was a privilege to learn about the work you do and the difference you make to people's lives.



Featured Artist

JULIE-ANNE WATT

Julie-Anne commenced with GV Centre (as it was previously known) when she was a young child. As her parents' occupations required them to move frequently, Julie-Anne spent time living in various places around Australia but has always considered Shepparton her home.

ConnectGV has provided Julie-Anne with a fantastic connection to her local community and allowed her to participate in social activities and programs with many of her friends, and long-term staff.

Julie-Anne is always ready with a bit of cheek and loves to talk of her beloved Carlton football team. She loves motorbikes, playing pool and swimming.

Artistic talent is something that is clear when Julie-Anne takes on a task. She has always enjoyed activities such as woodwork, especially after learning "whittling from her Uncle Alby" when she was a teenager. Since this time, Julie-Anne has become a member of the local GV Woodworkers group, participated in air-brushing art, metalwork and art with Julia at ConnectGV. This has allowed Julie-Anne to enter exhibitions at the Shepparton Library, and Shepparton Show taking home numerous accolades along the way.

While working on the Picasso Face Portrait, Julie-Anne liked using all different shapes and was able to incorporate lots of colours into the piece. Julie-Anne spent time learning about Picasso, how to draw and trace the shapes. She was assisted in cutting out the cardboard and chose her own different shapes for the face. She then used different mediums to paint the pieces and the background on the canvas.

Vision

To be the Australian centre for dairy and horticulture, exporting reliable premium quality fresh and value-added produce via innovative practices and world class irrigation systems. As a major business centre, we will be connected to the world through modern infrastructure and supported by a thriving and educated community that celebrates its rich culture.

2020 Strategy

C4GS will be releasing a new three year strategy document in early 2020.



The Committee for Greater Shepparton acknowledges the traditional owners of the land that comprises Greater Shepparton. We pay our respect to their elders, past, present and future, and confirm our commitment to reconciliation with aboriginal people.

Contents

Artist – Julie-Anne Watt	02
Chair and CEO Message	04
C4GS Executive Team	05
History	06
C4GS Board	08
Strategic Pillars	10
Advocacy In Action	12
Highlights	14
GROW	18
Media	20
Member Statistics	24
Member Benefits	25
Our Members	26
The Year in Pictures	31
Artist – Kim Rivett	34

Chair and CEO Message



Chair and CEO Message

The region continues to be transformed by strong advocacy and a united approach to the issues we face. The look, feel and prosperity of Greater Shepparton is changing for the better. Already key building blocks of our future are being created including the Greater Shepparton Secondary College, the Shepparton Art Museum and the upgrade of the Shepparton rail corridor, which will see Vlocity trains running between here and Spencer Street in 2022. The Goulburn Valley Health re-development stage one is due for completion in 2020, and the advocacy needs to continue to ensure that stage 2 follows closely on the heels of the current project.

We see two key challenges in our immediate future. With a growing economy comes the requirement for a skilled workforce, and as our business leaders constantly tell us, growth of demand is outstripping growth of supply. The situation is critical in the area of health services and other industries are also experience shortages. The solution is threefold:

- First, we must create a Shepparton that attracts skilled people from other parts of Australia.
- Second, we need to work with the Federal Government to ensure that visa arrangements are such that people from overseas who are able to contribute to our economy and society are able to come to Shepparton and do so.
- Third, we need to better grow our own – ensuring that kids in our schools have the mentoring, encouragement and pathways to enter our local industries should they choose to stay.

Our other challenge is the transformation of our agricultural sector. Whilst we continue to advocate for fairer outcomes for our agricultural sector in relation to irrigation water, we need to adapt and transform to a future where water may be in lesser supply. The establishment of new industries such as Cannatrek, and the evolution of the practices of the existing industries such as dairy's approach to fodder production and higher yielding systems in fruit, are examples of this.

We talked to so many people in 2019, from the Prime Minister and Senior Ministers in the Federal Government, to the Premier and State Ministers and to kids in our schools. The theme of these discussions is 'what can Greater Shepparton be in the future and how can you be part of it'.

We continue to be amazed at what can happen when the talents and focus of the top businesses, community organisations and political representatives are harnessed and pulled together to create a movement. This is aptly summed up in the title of the advocacy document to the Federal government contributed to by many in the community: "Creating the New Face of Regional Australia". This is what Greater Shepparton is focussed on doing. We thank all of our members in choosing to be a part of this.

Sam Birrell
CEO

Lesley Hart
CHAIR



Sam Birrell
CEO

Sam graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor Applied Science (Agriculture) in 2003. He worked as a horticultural agronomist in the Goulburn Valley, and from 2008 to 2016, was agronomist with global micro irrigation pioneers Netafim, in which capacity he worked across Australia and New Zealand. In March 2016 Sam was appointed CEO of the Committee for Greater Shepparton. A lifelong resident of the region, he graduated from the Fairley Leadership program in 2013, and in 2017 graduated with an M.B.A from La Trobe University. He chairs the Latrobe University Shepparton campus regional advisory board and is on the board of Rumbalara Football Netball club.



Deanne Armstrong
MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING MANAGER

As Membership and Marketing Manager for Committee for Greater Shepparton, Deanne is responsible for consultation with current members, engaging new members, and marketing the C4GS brand. Deanne brings a range of skills and knowledge to the Committee for Greater Shepparton, which helps support and drive the region and community into the future. Deanne has previously worked in hospitality, retail and business including time with the Victoria Police at the Glen Waverley Police Academy, the Eastern Region Headquarters Knox and Divisional Office in Shepparton, she then moved on to Goulburn Murray Water as a Modernisation Coordinator, where her experience growing up on dairy, beef and grazing farms was beneficial. Deanne also Chairs a local Manufacturing Group and Careers Day Out, is Board Director for the Kyabram District Health Service where she also Co-Chairs a sub-committee for Community and Cultural Governance, and is Secretary for the Nathalia Football Netball Club. In 2017 she completed the Fairley Leadership Program.



Nicola Woods
2019 OFFICE MANAGER

Nicola was the Office Manager at the Committee for Greater Shepparton from 2018-2019. Nicola was responsible for all administration duties including finances, social media, website and assisting both the CEO and Membership and Marketing Manager. Nicola moved to Shepparton with her family from the Yarra Valley where she was the Office and IT Manager at Coombe Yarra Valley. Nicola has experience in a range of differing industry's including hospitality, government and small business allowing her to gain a great deal of administration and customer service experience along with the ability to form strong relationships with people from within the community.



Melanie McAuliffe
2020 OFFICE MANAGER

Melanie is the new Office Manager at the Committee for Greater Shepparton where she is responsible for all administration duties including finances, social media, website, event planning and assisting both the CEO and Membership and Marketing Manager. Melanie joined C4GS at the end of 2019 having previously worked for The Tax Shop for 3 years. She has wealth of experience in administration having worked in the transport industry, hospitality and plumbing. Melanie settled in Mooroopna 10 years ago having grown up in Townsville and spent most of her time in North Queensland on Daydream and Long Island, Toowoomba and Brisbane. She has two wonderful children (15 and 6) and strong relationships with people from within the community. In her spare time Melanie enjoys camping, running and renovating her home and is on the Committee for the Shepparton Runners Club and Mooroopna Primary School.



The History of Committee for Greater Shepparton

The Committee for Greater Shepparton began in 2013, as a result of growing concern among business and community leaders as to the progress of the region. Trends around economic activity, infrastructure development, employment and education outcomes for young people were trending in the wrong direction. At a meeting in mid-2013, inaugural chair of the committee, David McKenzie, outlined the challenges facing the region. Also speaking at that meeting was then chair of the Committee for Geelong, Frank Costa. Mr Costa outlined some of the Geelong's successes with advocacy from the community leadership.

With very strong support from the business community (among the fastest take up of new membership for a new Committee for a city in Australia and New Zealand) the board set about developing a strategic plan. Four pillars were identified as the basis of the Committee's activities: a productive, connected, creative and inclusive community. This set an agenda that ensured the Committee was advocating for the entire community and was not just a business lobby group.



Matt Nelson
CEO – 2013 to 2015

"Starting as the inaugural C4GS CEO, it was clearly evident that there was strong support by not only the members, but indeed the community for the creation of the organisation.

The commitment to making a change for the future of Greater Shepparton was apparent not only to the local community but also recognised by all tiers of government as evident by the then C4GS Chair, David McKenzie, appointment to John Brumby review of regional development service delivery in Victoria and the Regional Transport Advisory Group. These appointments and the early success of C4GS demonstrated that in a short time the organisation was seen as a credible voice into government and signalled a new era of advocacy for Greater Shepparton and the Goulburn Valley region."



Sam Birrell
CEO – 2016 to present

"The Committee for Greater Shepparton is an incredible platform for developing and improving our great region. Something very special has been created, and it is a privilege to be involved, whether as a member, board member or staff. Relationships with Federal, State and Local government are strong and the membership list shows the deep commitment of the business community to the vision for a thriving Greater Shepparton into the future. We are all custodians along the way and I am constantly thankful to the visionaries who set this organisation up in the beginning. Right now, Greater Shepparton has a great story to tell about our successes and a positive solution-focused way of dealing with our challenges."

COMMITTEE FOR **GREATER SHEPPARTON**

Matt Nelson was appointed CEO in late 2013 and set about building the membership and developing connections with members of parliament, senior ministerial advisors and senior bureaucrats. After Matt moved to Regional Development Victoria at the end of 2015, Sam Birrell was appointed CEO. Rob Priestly took over as chair from David in late 2016, and Lesley Hart succeeded Rob in 2019. The Committee has grown its staff and sphere of influence, with the establishment of a manufacturing forum led by membership and marketing manager Deanne Armstrong, and development of a procurement and employment program 'GROW Greater Shepparton', managed by Leanne Hulm. These programs are assisting businesses in the region to take advantage of the increased economic activity that the advocacy creates.

As Greater Shepparton grows and further asserts itself as a significant regional economy and cohesive community, the Committee will continue to evolve and work with other leaders and stakeholders to set the course for a thriving region into the future.



David McKenzie
Chair – 2013 to 2016

"C4GS was initially formed during a period of significant challenge for the Shepparton region. There was a sense that the City was drifting, and was not acting in a concerted strategic way to try and shape its own future. The power of C4GS comes from its underpinning philosophy that "we are all in this together" which drives an altruistic motivation to assist all citizens live the best lives they can in this great region. It has helped bridge divides between the business sector, the community sector, the environment sector, and the water and farming sectors. Shepparton now has a strong reputation as one of the most 'organised' populations in regional Australia. We are on the front foot with strategy, relationships, advocacy and fresh thinking. C4GS has quickly become a trusted source of regional insight, ideas, and respectful but unrelenting advocacy. Challenges will continue to come in different shapes and forms over time, but so will opportunities, and I am certain that C4GS will be central to positioning us well for exciting times ahead."



Rob Priestly
Chair – 2016 to 2018

"Working with others, C4GS has shown what can be achieved when a community takes charge of its own destiny. The combination of good will, clear strategy and genuine collaboration have combined to make the committee a major contributor to the rebirth of the region. It's been fun, and deeply rewarding to see the efforts of many translate in to real gains for our community."



Lesley Hart
Chair – 2019 to present

"The Committee 4 exists because of its members who believe in the benefit of a collective vision and collective advocacy. Seven years ago there was a call to action, and those collective efforts have borne the desired outcomes. We are now in the fortunate position where we can now reset the strategic vision for our region. We seek to redefine our region to take its place as one of the five regional centres in Victoria, a place where there is opportunity and amenity for everyone, a diverse and inclusive community which leaves no one behind."



Lesley Hart
CHAIR

Lesley is a principal lawyer and director of Dawes & Vary Riordan Lawyers. She was one of the inaugural Law Institute of Victoria Commercial Tenancy Law Specialists (1999-2015). She heads the firm's Property and Retail Leasing Group and practices extensively in Commercial and Agricultural property transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and property related Water Law issues. Lesley's advises high wealth individuals, property developers, business owners, agriculturalists and government bodies. She also plays a key role in the management of the law firm. Lesley loves living in the Goulburn Valley and is a strong advocate for the region. Through her involvement with the Committee for Greater Shepparton and the Goulburn Valley Bypass Action Group she lobbies for better outcomes for the region. She is also particularly passionate about supporting local students to enjoy the same educational opportunities and outcomes as their city counterparts. She is a committed champion of the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Group, the Goulburn Valley Community Fund Lift-Off scholarship programs, and the law firm's partnership with a local primary school, all of which support educational outcomes.



Leigh Findlay
DEPUTY CHAIR

Leigh is Managing Director of Shepparton based engineering firm CAF Consulting employing over 30 people. Leigh grew up in Shepparton before leaving to study Civil Engineering at Monash University and worked across various civil infrastructure development projects in Melbourne. In pursuit of large-scale project experience five years was spent in the United Kingdom on Motorway and Airport Development – notably Terminal 5 Heathrow which bought him back to Melbourne Airport where he led various landside and airside development projects for APAM. Project Finance was key to infrastructure development which led Leigh into further studies and an investment banking role with Citigroup. An opportunity to come home to Shepparton and join the family business presented in 2009, which Leigh initially committed to for 2 years. Having witnessed firsthand the professional talent and exciting projects being undertaken across the Greater Shepparton region, Leigh and his family have immersed into Shepparton for the long term where he plays an active role in the community, holding positions on the Infrastructure Goulburn Valley (INGV) Committee and Board Member of the Shepparton Festival.



Rob Priestly

Rob Priestly, is a Director of the family company Gouge Linen and Garment Services. Gouge employs approximately 320 staff with the main operation based in Greater Shepparton. The company services businesses across Victoria from distribution centres in Bendigo, Geelong, Ballarat and Noble Park. Key clients are from health, food processing, and hospitality industries. Before joining the company, Rob worked in domestic, then export grain trading. Rob is married with three sons. "Our region has seen a increase in confidence and Investment, but strong advocacy is more important than ever. We need to continue build on our progress as a community tackling our problems, and capitalise on the opportunities for investments in our region"



Sönke Tremper

Sönke Tremper is the founder and director of Primary Projects Pty Ltd, a primary care consultancy. He is passionate about combining his governance, population health, and business management skills to achieve sustained benefits for our community. Sönke is a non-executive director of Murray City Country Coast GP Training and volunteers his time as the chair of Goulburn Valley Medical Workforce Fund, chairs the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project early years & primary school leadership table, is a member of GV Health's Population and Primary Care Advisory Committee, and the president of Dookie Primary School. Sönke is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds tertiary qualifications in public health and commerce. Soenke lives in Dookie with his wife Louise and children Anneliese and Johan. In his free time, Sönke loves offroad touring with his family.



Damian Trezise

As Managing Director of McPherson Media Group, Damian is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the group, encompassing commercial printing, custom publishing, events, and all newspaper and online publishing assets. Schooled in business management both here and overseas, Damian is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and committed to preserving the family values of the McPherson Media Group and its dedication to the communities it serves. In addition to his duties as Managing Director, Damian has previously been a member of the CEO Institute and served on the Boards of the Goulburn Valley Community Fund, GOTAFE, Country Press Australia and as the Chairman of the Victorian Country Press Association where he remains a Director. Other positions he currently holds include; Director of Regional Dailies Victoria, local member of Rotary, an inaugural and ongoing committee member of Shepparton's Biggest Blokes Lunch while he also sits on the Board and Audit and Finance Committee of Goulburn Valley Grammar School.



Jane Macey

With a passion for rural and regional development, Jane enjoys her current position as Principal town planner with Spiire in Shepparton. Jane forms part of the consultant team at Spiire, assisting in a wide variety of land development projects and strategic land use assessments. She also oversees the business' Town Planning and Urban Design Practice Area across Spiire's six offices. Prior to Shepparton Jane lived and worked in Melbourne, where she was born, Bendigo and Mornington Peninsula, as well as internationally in Dublin, Ireland. Jane now lives with her husband Damian on their family dairy farm near Cobram, along with their three daughters. Jane enjoys being part of the local community and actively participates on the St Joseph's Cobram Primary School Advisory Board and with the Cobram Junior Tennis Association. Jane was also part of the 2018 Fairley Leadership Program cohort. As part of the C4GS she looks forward to advocating for progress and positive recognition of what our local area has to offer.



Sarah Thomson

Sarah Thomson is the General Manager - Digital, Governance and Finance (CFO) for Goulburn Valley Water. She moved to Shepparton in 2017 and has been delighted about the community she found here. She is passionate about ensuring that the region is prosperous, a terrific place to live and continuing the culture of strong, diverse and inclusive leadership in our community. Sarah started her career at Deloitte and has worked for Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, World Vision, Burnet Medical Research Institute and most recently WaterAid Australia. Sarah is currently a Board Member of THREE (Towards Human Rights for Everyone Everywhere) Foundation and was previously an Audit Committee member at the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre. Sarah is a Chartered Accountant, she has Bachelor of Economics and Asian Studies (Australian National University) and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Strategic Pillars



PRODUCTIVE

Productivity is vital for our economic development. The Productive pillar includes initiatives around water policy, and agricultural and manufacturing investment.

CONNECTED

To be a vibrant 21st century region we must have connectivity to the rest of Australia and the world. This includes rail and road networks, digital connectivity, and established relationships with decision makers.



CREATIVE

To reach our potential we must embrace our creativity. Creativity encompasses all facets of arts and culture, but also has a part to play in the design of our region and industries.

INCLUSIVE

It is important that all residents of our region participate in our economy. All cultures, groups and individuals must feel that they are an important and included part of the community.

Advocacy in Action

Creating the New Face



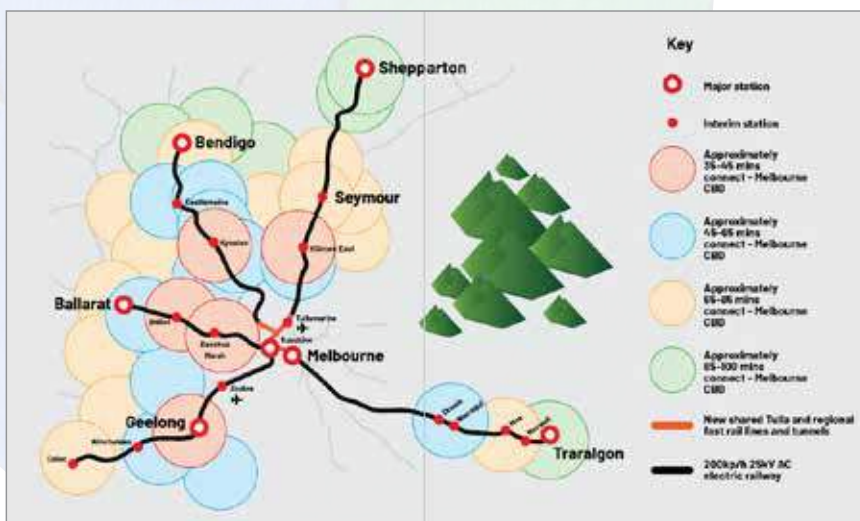
C4GS was proud to work with a range of stakeholders on the creation of two new advocacy documents launched in late 2019. These have been endorsed by Greater Shepparton City Council, and were developed in partnership with industry and community groups to articulate the funding needs of Greater Shepparton to State and Federal governments. The documents – Creating the New Face of Regional Australia and Creating the New Face of Regional Victoria – are targeted at Federal and State governments respectively and focus on a range of important projects including the Bypass, Maude Street Mall redevelopment, passenger rail improvements and support for health and education projects. C4GS led a delegation, including the Mayor and CEO, to Canberra on Wednesday 23 October and presented Creating the New Face of Regional Australia to the Prime Minister and various ministers and members of Parliament, which was well received.

Stronger Together



The Stronger Together – Fast Rail Report was commissioned by City of Greater Geelong in the context of the State committing to plan for 200km/h fast rail to both Geelong and Ballarat. It extends this network to include Bendigo, Shepparton and Latrobe as well as interim stations. It does so with a design solution which complements the current (Tullamarine) Airport Rail Link. A fast-regional network can be constructed in parallel with this project to deliver major macroeconomic benefits for Victoria.

Currently it takes 162 mins to travel to Melbourne's CBD via rail, with the new system travel time would be reduced to 98 mins. It would also see Goulburn Valley residents be able to travel to Tullamarine in 82min, a service that is not currently available.



Shepparton to Tullamarine Airport	N/A	82 mins
Shepparton to Sunshine	N/A	90 mins
Shepparton to Melbourne	162 mins	98 mins

Greater Shepparton Secondary College



Greater Shepparton Secondary College

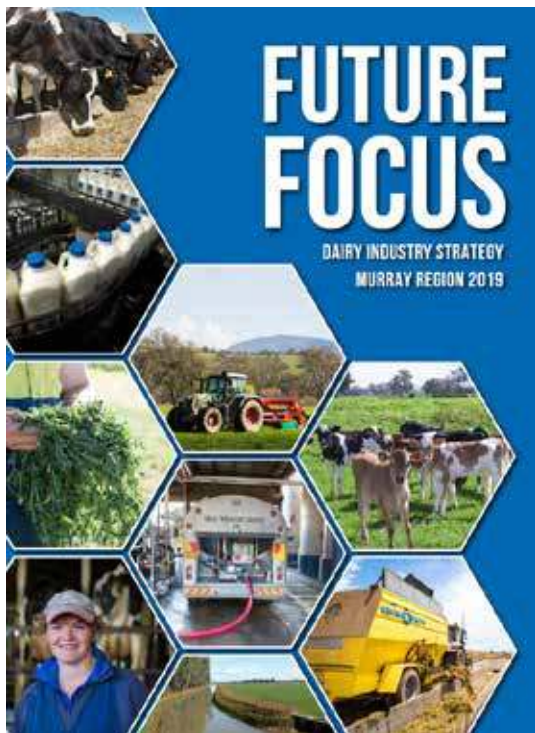


Greater Shepparton Secondary College

The Committee for Greater Shepparton has been supportive of the development of Greater Shepparton Secondary College. There was a clear need to intervene to improve student outcomes. In June, we wrote that, “the model is not a guarantee of success, nor is it flawed from the start. It provides an opportunity. The new buildings and the revamped structure give a physical environment which our students deserve and have deserved for some time. But the people are what will create the culture of learning and innovation. The culture will be created by a combination of staff, parents and community coming together with goal of improving education and well-being, which improves our region for decades to come.”

We will continue to be involved with the school, offering support for staff and students, and trying to integrate the business community into the school so that students can find pathways and mentors that will help them achieve all that they aspire to.

Murray Dairy Future Focus Report



Future Focus is a document that identifies an industry in the midst of significant change. Change presents challenges, but also opportunities. It is clear that the practices of the past cannot be relied upon to create a profitable dairy sector in this region into the future, so the industry must adapt.

Future Focus establishes six areas where the adaptation will be most critical: profit, systems, water, people, planning and promotion. These areas stand alone in terms of responsibility and expertise but are all interlinked in the sustainability of dairy in the region.

The latter part of Future Focus outlines the goals and subsequent strategies to be applied and most critically, the stakeholders responsible. Future Focus is not a static document, it is designed to foster engagement and collaborative partnerships to achieve collective outcomes.

Future Focus can promote a bright future for the industry if all stakeholders take ownership and enthusiastically work toward the goals identified. If stakeholders prevaricate and wait, we could see the decline of dairy in this region. The Committee for Greater Shepparton is very pleased to be involved in such an essential analysis and pathway forward for one of the major economic drivers of our region.

Highlights

JANUARY – MARCH 2019

15th February

Murray Dairy Agriculture in Transition event

Held at Agriculture Victoria in Tatura, International Economics Researcher and US Policy Advisor Dan Sumner shared his insights on how agricultural industries and communities in California have adjusted to climate change, policy (including water), government regulation, market drivers and other factors. C4GS CEO Sam Birrell presented a perspective on the development of agriculture in the Goulburn Valley. After lunch, attendees were invited on a tour of Agriculture Victoria's Horticultural Research Facility at Tatura.



27th February

Senator Kimberley Kitching visit

The Committee for Greater Shepparton hosted Federal Labor Senator Kimberley Kitching for a regional visit where she was able to tour SPC, had a trip on the Goulburn River with the Goulburn Broken CMA to view bank damage

due to high summer flows, and picked some peaches from the trees at Dimits Orchard. All these experiences and interactions helped Senator Kitching develop an understanding of the importance of Greater Shepparton's economy, irrigated agriculture and the positive steps we are attempting to make in relation to the environmental health of the Goulburn. In addition to a lunch meeting with a diverse range of community stakeholders she also meet with Lisa McKenzie from the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project, Richard Speed from La Trobe Shepparton Campus and Suzanna Sheed Independent MP for the District of Shepparton. We look forward to Senator Kitching's ongoing interest in our region and the continued relationship with Federal Labor.

6th March

Warren Davies and Lance Picioane visit

It was a privilege to have Lance Picioane and Warren Davies - The Unbreakable Farmer from Love Me Love You visit Shepparton to educate and raise awareness around mental health. The feedback has been very positive from the students with comments such as: "I found it very inspiring for me as I am suffering from a mental illness," and "This encouraged me to reach out." This event highlighted the importance of starting these conversations and breaking down the stigma about mental health. To sit a watch the reaction on the students faces, some staring, some with tears, really showed the how much we need to stop and start listening to our younger generation as they are struggling with the pressures of today's world. It is only one conversation which could really change someone's life. For more information about Love Me Love You Foundation and the programs they offer please head to their website www.lovemeloveyou.org.au. If you or someone you know is having challenges with mental health please call lifeline 131114 - www.lifeline.org.au - "Deanne Armstrong"



13th March

ICA Expo

IICA – the Institute of Instrumentation, Control and Automation brought their showcase event to Shepparton. The latest measurement technology was on display, and local manufacturing businesses were able to sample the latest innovation in this sector. The expo was held at the Shepparton Motor Museum & Collectibles, and this location, in the midst of the vintage cars and motorcycles gave the exhibitors and guests an added experience.

13th-15th March

Committees for Cities bi-annual meeting in Ballarat

Ballarat hosted this latest meeting of the Committees for Cities network. The Committee for Ballarat showed the impressive development of renewable energy – particularly wind turbines – in the region, and also the new display at Ballarat's iconic tourist destination Sovereign Hill. We heard from a members of parliament and local leaders, and a highlight was roads Minister and former agriculture and regional development minister Jaala Pulford identifying C4GS as a particularly effective advocate in regional Victoria.



21st March

SPC Book Launch

C4GS and SPC were proud to have co-hosted the official book launch of 'Worth Preserving, 100 years of SPC', which was held at The Vault. Speakers were Committee for Greater Shepparton CEO, Sam Birrell and SPC managing director,

Reg Weine along with author Jenny Mountstephen. 'Worth Preserving, 100 years of SPC' is an incredibly well researched and written account of SPC's history. It is a celebration of achievements over 100 years, a revealing insight in the people who established the fruit and canning industries in the Goulburn Valley.

26th March

Annual General Meeting

C4GS held the Annual General Meeting members function at Pippins - Terminus Hotel Shepparton where the 2018 Annual Report was launched. A key feature of the 2018 Annual Report was the cover art by local Yorta Yorta artist Tammy Lee Atkinson. C4GS members were introduced to a panel of six newly appointed CEO's / Leaders of Greater Shepparton: Matt Sharp from GV Health, Elizabeth Capp from Latrobe University, Travis Heeney from GO Tafe, Genevieve Simpson from Greater Shepparton College, Melissa Ralph from Goulburn Murray Credit Union and Charmaine Quick from Goulburn Murray Water. The success of these leaders will have a significant impact on the region's fortunes into the future. These leaders were asked to identify what the community, particularly the C4GS community, could do to assist them in their work to lead their organisations. We also said thank you to David McKenzie and Scott Kelly who stepped down from the board and welcomed Soenke Tremper and Simon Taylor who were newly appointed as board members. Rob Priestly, stepped down as chair, but remained on the C4GS board. Lesley Hart was elected as the new chair.



APRIL – JUNE 2019

5th April

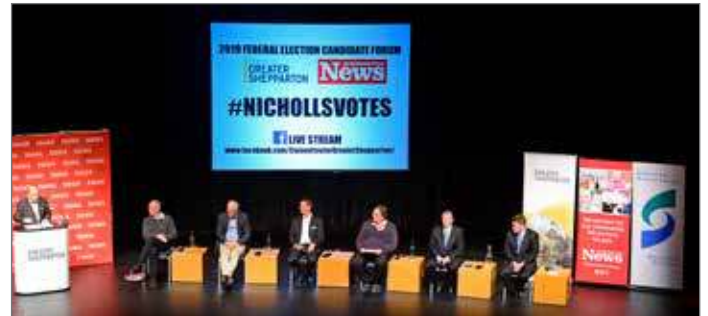
Regions Rising – Canberra

Sam Birrell and Lesley Hart attended the 'Regions Rising' event, hosted by the Regional Australia Institute at Old Parliament House in Canberra.

The theme of Canberra summit was Regional Futures which captured the key issues impacting regional communities. Topics included: The Jobs of the Future; Population; Health; and Education. Key drivers of regional development were discussed through an economic and social lens. A highlight was a session on political lobbying from Grahame Morrim from Barton Deakin, one of the most influential political consultancy firms in Australia. The Regional Policy Masterclass – Frontier provided an opportunity for policy makers and regional leaders to contextualise and understand best practice in policy development. In addition Sam and Lesley were able to put the successes and challenges on the agenda to other regional leaders from around the country.



feedback was received. This important event is critical to creating aspiration among our younger population and showing the diversity of employment pathways.



8th May

Federal Election Candidate Forum

C4GS hosted a Candidate forum ahead of the 2019 election. National's Damian Drum, Labor's Bill Lodwick, Stuart Hine from United Australia Party along with independents Andrew Bock, Nigel Hicks and Jeremy Parker were grilled on their vision for the region and policy ambitions. 250 attended the event and 853 watched all or part of the live feed on Facebook.



10th April

NAB Economic Forum

The 'Grow Greater Shepparton Economic Forum' brought together the heads of district local businesses with leadership representatives from Greater Shepparton City Council, Committee for Greater Shepparton and state and federal politicians.

A panel discussion including C4GS CEO Sam Birrell and NAB economist Phin Ziebell examined the trends in the Goulburn Valley's economy.



30th April

Careers Day Out

Careers day out is an opportunity for employers and education providers to showcase the career opportunities that are available for young people. 1900 visitors attended, including 1700 year 10 students from schools within 85km radius of Shepparton. The displays were very interactive, and a lot of good

13th June

Jaclyn Symes Dinner

Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development Jaclyn Symes visited Greater Shepparton and toured Gouge Linen and Garment's facility in Mooroopna and met with Catherine Velisha, from Velisha farms, at her new development growing broccoli in Ardmona. The Minister addressed the members at a dinner function that evening and stayed to talk to C4GS business owners commenting on the positivity in the Greater Shepparton region at the moment.



26th June

Horticulture Connections Dinner

The National Horticultural Convention was held in Melbourne and was a key focus of the horticultural industry – both from Australia and overseas. The Gala Dinner was attended by 1200 industry leaders at Crown Palladium. The attendees at the dinner were treated to a 'Great Things Happen Here' video, featuring all the positives for horticulture in the Goulburn Valley, including Catherine Velisha explaining why she expanded her operations to the region. The video in front of a captive audience of the most influential people in the industry was a great initiative and a collaboration between Committee for Greater Shepparton, Greater Shepparton City Council and Goulburn Murray Water. Another highlight of the evening was C4GS member Plunkett Orchards' manager Jason Shields winning the national grower of the year award.



Highlights

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019



5th July

Youth Foyer Breakfast

The Education First Youth Foyer provides secure housing as a means of enabling young people to focus on their studies. It also provides opportunities to develop career aspirations, gain work experience and build a pathway to sustainable employment.

Committee for Greater Shepparton sees a key role in bringing together businesses and the youth foyer residents. The business breakfast event is very successful in making connections and they launched a mentoring program to provide support and guidance to all the students and help connect them to further opportunities.

1st August

Gayle Tierney

Inspire your future

Minister for Training and Skills & Higher Education
Gayle Tierney announced \$1 Million towards the Raising Expectations program at La Trobe University Shepparton. This program supports those who are or have been unable to live at home during periods of study. Three inspiring participants attended and outlined the life changing opportunity this program provided.



18th September

An evening with Professor John Hattie

Around 200 people gathered at the Woolshed to hear the internationally acclaimed Professor John Hattie from the University of Melbourne speak about his international research and the factors which make a difference to impacting student learning. School culture, collective teaching strategies and evaluation plans and measurement are all key drivers of positive impact. According to Professor Hattie, school size had an insignificant impact on education outcomes. Professor Hattie stated that community groups such as C4GS have a role to play in helping develop the school evaluation plan. The presentation was organised by the Dept of Education, and facilitated by Latrobe Shepparton Head of Campus, Elizabeth Capp.

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019



1st October

Latrobe John Furphy Lecture

Former Minister in the Hawke government and academic Barry Jones was the guest speaker at the Furphy lecture, in what was an amusing and thought provoking presentation. C4GS were able to have some one on one time with Mr Jones after the event and gain some insight into government policy making for the long term and the importance of arts and creativity into communities, particularly those in the regions.



10th–11th October

C4Cities Brisbane

The Committees for Cities conference was hosted by the newly developed Committee for Brisbane (a re-badging of the Brisbane Development Association, which began life in 1958). The event was well organised, with presentations from Mark Stockwell, former Olympic silver medallist, on Brisbane and SE Qld's bid for the 2032 Olympic games, and Leanne Kemp, Queensland's chief entrepreneur.



30th October

Emerging leaders' dinner

The C4GS emerging leaders' dinner is an opportunity for younger people in Greater Shepparton who have leadership aspirations to engage with

more established leaders. This event focused specifically on diversity, and the benefits this can bring to a workplace. Major employers in the region spoke of some huge successes they had with people who were newly arrived to Australia in their businesses, and young people from diverse backgrounds spoke of challenges and opportunities in the workplace, and of their goals and aspirations.



23rd October

Canberra Delegation

C4GS Gold members and stakeholders led a delegation to Canberra to meet with key ministers and shadow ministers to put the issues faced by the region front and centre. A highlight was a significant meeting with Prime Minister Scott Morrison, where we discussed the Murray Darling Basin plan and the role of Federal government in water policy. The Prime Minister was also very complimentary to Greater Shepparton for its positive attitude and success with immigration, and he encouraged a louder voice on this issue from the regions in metropolitan areas. We met with the Minister for Agriculture, Senator McKenzie – and advocated for the fruit industry, dairy industry and transformative agriculture. We discussed regional tertiary education with Dan Tehan the education minister. A positive discussion was had with Terri Butler, the new Labor Shadow Minister for Water, and she committed to visit the region.



26th November

Stakeholders Drinks

The Committee for Greater Shepparton hosted an end of year celebration at The Shepparton Brewery, where stakeholders, Councillors and those who have supported the Committee throughout 2019 enjoyed locally crafted beers and wood fire pizzas. A great night was had by all, with special thanks to Daina and her team for providing a great venue with wonderful staff.



GROW (Growing Regional Opportunities for Work) Greater Shepparton was launched in August 2018 with the Committee for Greater Shepparton being selected as the 'backbone' organisation to lead the implementation of the Program.

The Program will seek to support the growth of jobs and the regional economy, while targeting the achievement of employment outcomes for the key identified communities including youth

(15–24yrs), Indigenous, migrants, people with a disability and long term unemployed facing barriers to employment, helping ensure everyone can participate in a growing economy.

The GROW Greater Shepparton program is open to all public and private sector organisations committed to GROW's objectives, who are either locally based or with significant procurement and employment activity in the region.



GROW Greater Shepparton Action Plan Social Procurement Framework

GROW Greater Shepparton will act as the regions conduit between buyers, local social benefit suppliers and employment support agencies. GROW Greater Shepparton is uniquely positioned to achieve sustainable social procurement outcomes in the region.

The social procurement framework applies to all Victorian Government departments, agencies and local businesses shifting the way organisations do business. The Framework will mean businesses who use social and disability enterprises, and Aboriginal business in their tenders for government contracts and who proactively employ people facing complex barriers to work will have a competitive edge over those who don't.

These actions sit under the following six GROW Greater Shepparton Pillars:

The GROW Greater Shepparton Regional Action Plan seeks to deliver the programs objectives through a set of interlinked and mutually reinforcing actions

 <p>Establish Leadership and Collaboration</p> <p>Establish regional cross sectoral leadership to ensure ongoing commitment to the GROW Greater Shepparton program and encourage and support committed members to participate and deliver on local and social procurement and inclusive employment outcomes.</p>	 <p>Enable Inclusive Employment Pathways</p> <p>Engage with employers and key support providers to strengthen inclusive employment outcomes and increase employment for target communities.</p>
 <p>Build Procurement Capability</p> <p>Work with buyers across the region to improve their procurement capability and increase their visibility of opportunities to maximise the local and social impact of their spend.</p>	 <p>Maximise Major Project Local and Social Impact</p> <p>Work with agencies and businesses delivering major projects in the Greater Shepparton region to ensure that local economic and social impact are maximised.</p>
 <p>Increase Local Supplier Capability and Engagement</p> <p>Work with local suppliers operating in the region to improve their visibility of opportunities and increase tender readiness and capability to successfully respond to opportunities.</p>	 <p>Measure and Report Program Impact</p> <p>Measure and report on participant and overall program performance and outcomes.</p>

GROW Greater Shepparton in Action

GROW Greater Shepparton has delivered significant growth opportunities for the ConnectGV social enterprise business at Billabong Garden Complex.

GROW Program Manager Leanne Hulm has used her industry knowledge to open up new contracts for our propagation business which employs 11 people with a disability. The impact experienced in our business creates further employment opportunities which in turn meets our social obligations through our social enterprise business.

Carolynne Frost
CEO, ConnectGV



The GROW program has enabled our social enterprise business to experience real growth opportunities and support the development of our employees.

Anthony Putt
General Manager
People Performance & Culture, ConnectGV



Leanne Hulm
GROW Program Manager

Leanne comes to the position of GROW Greater Shepparton after a 19-year career in media with Southern Cross Austereo where she held the position of General Manager for 14 years running 95.3 Triple M, HIT 96.9 & Channel 9.

Immediately prior to commencing with GROW, Leanne held the position of Executive Officer with Goulburn River Valley Tourism working with Greater Shepparton City Council, Mitchell Shire Council, Murrindindi Shire Council and Strathbogie Shire Council. Leanne is former President of the Shepparton Chamber of Commerce & Industry and has completed her MBA with Victoria University.

Away from work, Leanne and her partner have a thoroughbred horse property in Kialla and Albury that keeps her busy.



Put Shepparton bypass on the map

Shepparton News asked prominent stakeholders in the business and transport industry for their reaction to the news that the Victorian Government has delayed the release of the business case for the Shepparton Bypass until next year.

"I have spoken to Major Roads Projects Victoria and they said the business case would be available in November; now they are saying next year.

I am disappointed, but the critical thing is, it seriously needs to be done for it to be considered for next May's budget

We have \$208 million from the Federal Government and we need to get that capital working

The state government needs to come to the party, and the business case is part of the whole jigsaw.

Sam Birrell - CEO C4GS



What they said at the ACCC forum

About 130 people, mostly irrigators, attended the Shepparton forum as part of the ACCC's inquiry into the operation of water markets in the Murray-Darling Basin.

"We're calling for total transparency." Sam Birrell, speaking on behalf of the Committee for Greater Shepparton and Goulburn Murray Irrigation District Water Leadership Forum.

Sam Birrell - CEO C4GS



AirRail tunnel could provide fast access to CBD for Shepparton travellers

The Committee for Greater Shepparton is pushing for the development of Melbourne's world-class airport train to include a tunnel for faster travel times for Shepparton commuters.

Joining forces with a number of regional cities, C4GS chief executive Sam Birrell said a dedicated tunnel running from Sunshine to Southern Cross station, as part of the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, would help provide a quick and affordable journey into the city.

The project is an initiative between AirRail Melbourne and the Victorian Government, and is nearing a decision on the final design.

Current plans indicate the rail link will be developed from Melbourne Airport in Tullamarine, travelling south to a new 'Super-hub' at Sunshine station before heading on to Southern Cross Station.

Mr Birrell and committees from Melbourne, Ballarat, Gippsland, Wyndham and Geelong believe the tunnel is essential to free up congestion on the road, provide an efficient journey for regional travellers to the airport and also open up regional areas to domestic and international visitors with world-class connectivity.



Shepparton's drought woes shared with PM

Shepparton was the hot topic in Canberra on Wednesday after a delegation spoke with cabinet ministers to help develop relationships.

Committee for Greater Shepparton was joined by local council and other stakeholders who met with key government decision-makers to advocate for Greater Shepparton.

"A lot of his interest in Shepparton was based on our large multicultural population, as much of that was owing to his time as immigration minister. He knows there are a lot of positive stories coming out of Shepparton and wants us to promote those positive benefits of immigration."

"We told him part of the drought is attributed to a lack of rain in NSW and Queensland but government policy surrounding the Murray Darling Basin Plan has reduced the amount of irrigation water to our farmers."

Sam Birrell - CEO C4GS



Medicinal cannabis CEO meets local leaders

About 18 months ago, volleyball enthusiast and medicinal cannabis company chief executive officer Tommy Huppert found his planned facility's newest home.

While tuning into television coverage of the 2018 international beach volleyball tournament held in Shepparton, Mr Huppert became intrigued after hearing a speech from City of Greater Shepparton Mayor Kim O'Keefe.

"This is an exciting industry and it's probably incumbent on us all in Greater Shepparton to really research it and see what's out there," he said.

"I think if we understand it as an industry, we can advocate for it and then it can perhaps become de-stigmatised."



High-speed rail link backed

A Melbourne to Shepparton leg is again being flagged as part of a "fast rail" project and part of a Federal Government population plan.

Referencing Shepparton's inclusion on high-speed rail proposals, Mr Birrell said wherever high-speed rail travelled, in relation to a Melbourne to Sydney corridor, "we need to get some regional centres connected first" and that "Shepparton would be a logical place to start".

"We want these rail links to open up regional centres and enhance communities," he said.

Sam Birrell - CEO C4GS



Deputy PM announces \$15 million local investment

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack visited Shepparton yesterday to announce a \$15million federal investment in a new high-tech fruit sorting and packing facility for the region.

Committee for Greater Shepparton chief executive Sam Birrell said the investment would allow regional growers to compete more effectively in the global market.

"If we're going to be competitive in the export of fresh fruit, then we have to be competitive in every aspect," Mr Birrell said.

"We grow it well, we water it well, we've got a very good product, but our packing facilities are not state-of-the-art.

"Damian Drum has recognised this, and the Federal Government, and they have quite rightly given a grant to a business that will install state-of-the-art packing equipment."

Sam Birrell - CEO C4GS



Committee for Greater Shepparton extends partnership with AUSVEG

AUSVEG is pleased to announce the renewal of its Regional Partnership with the Committee for Greater Shepparton and welcomes its continued support for the vegetable industry.

The Committee for Greater Shepparton is focused on improving the economic development and liveability of the Greater Shepparton region. This includes a vision of becoming the Australian centre for dairy and horticulture, exporting reliable, premium-quality fresh and value-added produce through innovative practices and world-class irrigation systems.

Through this partnership, the Committee is helping AUSVEG in our work advocating for the interests of Australian vegetable growers and helping us provide events and services for the industry. The Committee's continued relationship with AUSVEG also shows its support for the Australian vegetable industry and our growers.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack visited Shepparton yesterday to announce a \$15million federal investment in a new high-tech fruit sorting and packing facility for the region.

Committee for Greater Shepparton chief executive Sam Birrell said the investment would allow regional growers to compete more effectively in the global market.

"If we're going to be competitive in the export of fresh fruit, then we have to be competitive in every aspect," Mr Birrell said.

"We grow it well, we water it well, we've got a very good product, but our packing facilities are not state-of-the-art.

"Damian Drum has recognised this, and the Federal Government, and they have quite rightly given a grant to a business that will install state-of-the-art packing equipment."

Sam Birrell - CEO C4GS



Labor will act on milk floor price

Labor leaders say it is not acceptable for farmers to be paid less than the cost of producing their milk, and will take action if they win this year's federal election.

But Committee for Greater Shepparton chief Sam Birrell said flagging a minimum milk price doesn't address the real issue in dairy in the northern Victoria region.

"It's one thing for federal Labor to be talking about a mandatory minimum price," Mr Birrell said.

"But at the same time, they have a water spokesman talking about re-entering the market and buying back more water.

"While price is important, the critical challenge for dairy in northern Victoria is the price of water."

Sam Birrell - CEO C4GS



No more water can be removed from the region

The Murray-Darling Basin debate was reignited following the airing of an ABC Four Corners program called 'Cash Splash'. The program contains fresh allegations that some of the government water buybacks designed to boost efficient water are bypassing basin communities and flowing on to be used inefficiently by international corporations.

"Our position is pretty simple the basin plan has taken water away from the Goulburn Murray irrigation district and that's given the region an economic hit."

Sam Birrell. CEO



Shepparton's homelessness problem made known in Canberra

The Federal Government is aware of homelessness in Shepparton and it's now up to it to act, according to former mayor Kim O'Keeffe.

Cr O'Keeffe travelled with key local stakeholders and Committee for Greater Shepparton to Canberra.

"We know the statistics that Shepparton has the highest number of homeless people in the state outside of metropolitan Melbourne, so our argument is that we need to keep getting that funding."



Peter D tackling the big issues with C4GS CEO



C4GS Sam Birrell— Man of many talents

In June 2019 Sam performed two songs on ONE FM Shepparton to promote the Shepparton Festival encouraging locals to get involved as either a performer, volunteer or attend events during the festival.



Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Nicola Woods 111 · October 23 · 🌐

The Committee for Greater Shepparton are today being hosted by Damian Drum MP in Canberra and meeting with Prime Minister, Scott Morrison (ScottMo).

This is a great opportunity to deliver positive messages of Greater Shepparton's growth and vibrancy to the PM and other senior members of the government, making sure they know Shepparton is the regional centre to be investing in.

Thank you to Damian Drum and his team for helping to make this visit a success.



Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Nicola Woods 111 · March 15 · 🌐

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack visited Shepparton yesterday to announce a \$15 million federal investment in a new high-tech fruit sorting and packing facility for the region.

"If we're going to be competitive in the export of fresh fruit, then we have to be competitive in every aspect"

"We grow it well, we water it well, we've got a very good product, but our packing facilities are not state-of-the-art."

-Sam Birrell - CEO



SHEPPNEWS.COM.AU
Deputy PM announces \$15 million local investment - Shepparton News

ONE FM Shepparton Radio
December 31, 2019 at 4:18 PM · 🌐

Sam Birrell of the Committee for Greater Shepparton makes some interesting points about our local media in today's Shepparton News. Thanks for the mention Sam!

SNVIEWPOINT

SHEPPARTON NEWS, TUESDAY

The changing media landscape



SAM BIRRELL

One of the things I find the most difficult about the modern era of disruption is the changing face of media. Many people used to get their information from professional journalists who are bound by an ethical code, trained to write (or speak) and paid to find what former *Washington Post* journalist and Watergate scandal exposé Carl Bernstein described as "the best attainable version of the truth". Advertising revenue in newspapers and on radio and television traditionally

paid for this journalism. Also, in the case of the ABC, the taxpayer chips in for our government funded, but necessarily independent, media outlet. As all media companies are finding out, traditional arrangements are being challenged by free online news, social media and streaming entertainment services. Social media may seem the ultimate democracy. Everyone gets to write whatever they want, and every opinion can be heard. This is not necessarily a bad thing, as diversity of views should help enhance the debate rather than hinder it. Perversely, though, it can morph into a forum for anger-fueled ranting, which can be divisive and unfair on people in the public eye, such as our members of parliament.

The unmoderated nature and lack of an editorial process in these forums can also form an echo chamber of views and be a bit loose with the facts. It has its place, but I wouldn't like to see it dominate. Greater Shepparton is enhanced by our traditional media outlets. Journalists have cut their teeth here and moved on to the national media stage, and some continue to provide stories and views which inform and provoke thought about our region. They thoughtfully tell stories about ourselves and our place. Some things should be protected, and though our traditional media must evolve to survive, if we lost them, we would lose more than just some news bulletins and papers. We can find ways to look

after our media. Subscribe to the *Shepparton News* and read the *Shepparton Advisor* when it arrives in your letterbox. Be thankful that WIN and Nine still spend money on excellent and dedicated news journalists in Greater Shepparton, and advocate so this continues. Don't let the government cuts to ABC affect the regions—they play a critical role in news and agricultural reporting and emergency notification. I can't imagine this city without them. The commercial radio stations Triple M and Hit FM have local news bulletins and have been discussing issues such as water and education policy. One FM runs great community programs. If we are all informed of various sides of debates and

go out of our way to understand the complexities of issues, our democracy improves. If we don't, well, as the motto of the *Washington Post* says, "Democracy Dies in Darkness". Happy New Year to all. We have had some disagreements as a community this year, in the conventional media and on social media, but as former Prime Minister John Howard used to say on election night (four of which he won, one where he conceded) "the things that unite us are much stronger than the things that divide us". Whilst we will have divergent views on how to get there, we are united in wanting our region to thrive. **Sam Birrell is the Committee for Greater Shepparton chief executive.**

Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Sam Birrell 111 · April 1 · 🌐

We all need to back farmers like Hamish Crawford from Tatura - he is right when he says removing more water from this region won't solve fish kill issues in the Darling. If federal Labor need to gain some understanding from their Victorian counterparts.



THEAUSTRALIAN.COM.AU
Andrews backs farmers over Burke
The Andrews Labor government has opposed its federal ALP counterparts.

Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Nicola Woods | June 4

Committee for Greater Shepparton welcomes the announcement by Coca-Cola Amati of a successful sale of SPC. We look forward to meeting the new owners, Shepparton Partners Collective, and working with them to ensure that SPC remains an iconic Shepparton based food producing business.

Though the processed fruit market has been challenged by a number of headwinds over the past ten years we are sure that with future thinking and innovation the company can leverage on the skill and natural advantages of our agricultural producers to create and sell regional food products to growing demand both in domestic and export markets.

#spc #c4gs #committeeforgreatshepparton #pscsale



ABC NETAU
Coca-Cola sells cannery icon SPC for \$40m, no job losses expected

La Trobe Shepparton Campus
August 29

Medicinal Cannabis facility (Cannabrek) CEO Tommy Huppert met with Shepp leaders yesterday on campus. We are excited at this huge investment in our region and the opportunities for collaborative research. Read more: <http://bit.ly/2P8H5JF>



Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Sam Birrell | November 12 at 10:25 PM

Dhams you champion for Shepparton!

Kim O'Keefe
November 12 at 9:24 PM
Well done Dhams!



SBS.COM AU
'The accidental local' spreading love in a Victorian country town, one scoop at a time

Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Sam Birrell | March 15

We have spent some great days in Ballarat with the Committees for Cities network, including Gary Jackson from the Committee for Canterbury - and we are absolutely honoured to hear what has just happened to his city. Christchurch has had so much trauma already to endure. Our thoughts with Gary, Oll and Erin and all of C4 Canterbury - we know how much they love their city and how much this will be hurting.

Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Sam Birrell | Apr 23

Save the Date! - The Committee for Greater Shepparton will be hosting a Nichols Federal Election Candidate Forum on May 8, in Shepparton at 6pm. More details soon.

Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Sam Birrell | March 7

One of the great icons of Greater Shepparton



Tells Wine
March 7

Weather permitting and all being well the Yorta Yorta Turtle maze will be ploughed into the earth this Saturday at Tells Wine.

This impressive piece of landscape art (40m in diameter) will appear in the paddock next to Tells Wine cellar door for the 2018 Shepparton Festival.

The giant long neck turtle is an important totem of the local indigenous Yorta Yorta people and will be ploughed into the paddock by winery owner Richard Tells using GPS on his tractor. Looking like a crop circle the view will be spectacular.

Thank you Serena Hunt-Hughes Photographer for the wonderful image.
Shepparton Festival Visit Shepparton Visit Serena Serena Hunt-Hughes Photographer

Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Sam Birrell | June 12

Some interesting analysis in this article - claims that the poorer results for regional and rural students is due to:

- Not enough incentives to attract teachers to rural & regional areas
- Demographic changes - unemployment of parents and declining communities
- Lack of drive due to higher cost of University for regional students
- Lower subject availability due to smaller schools

Some big challenges that require big thinking
Suzanna Sheed Independent MP for the District of Shepparton
Department of Education & Training, Victoria
Darius von Gutner
The University of Melbourne
Greater Shepparton City Council
Victorian School Building Authority
Latrobe Uni Shepparton



THEAGE.COM AU
'We're in a bubble': Country kids left behind as education gap widens

Greater Shepparton City Council
January 5

MUST WATCH: Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd works towards a sustainable future for growers and the horticulture industry across Victoria. Head to bit.ly/CouncilGv to find out more about Council's agreement with FGV.
Elzsbeth Mace
Committee for Greater Shepparton



we have different growing climates.

Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Nicola Woods | March 29

Last night we held our Annual General Meeting members function at Pippins - Terminus Hotel Shepparton where we celebrated a year of wonderful achievements and advocacy.

Our members were introduced to a panel of six newly appointed CEOs of Greater Shepparton and heard about their leadership, skills and attributes they bring to their organisation and how the community can best support them.

We also said thank you to David McKenzie and Scott Kelly who stepped down from... See More




Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Deanne Armstrong | March 29

Tower of Toothpicks Challenge
You could win \$1,000 for your school and an iPad mini for each student in the winning team

CAREERS DAY OUT 2019
MADISON WRIGHT

Careers Day Out
March 18

We are calling on all schools to come and get involved with Careers Day Out on 30th April. It's really simple, if you are in grade 6 come along and build a tower...

Committee for Greater Shepparton
Published by Deanne Armstrong | October 21

Great to see local businesses growing and support local jobs. Well done



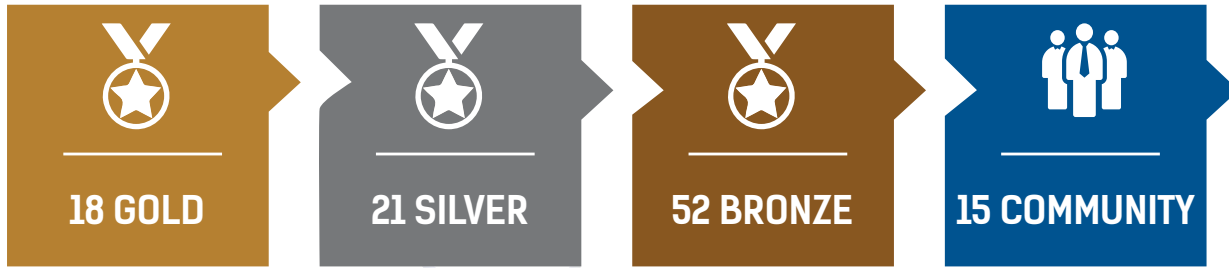
WINNEWS
WIN News Shepparton
October 18

A Coburn company has received a major contract to build replica tunnels for Australia's first tunnelling training centre in Melbourne.

CPE Construction says it's a major coup and good news for jobs and the local economy.

Member Statistics: AS OF DECEMBER 2019

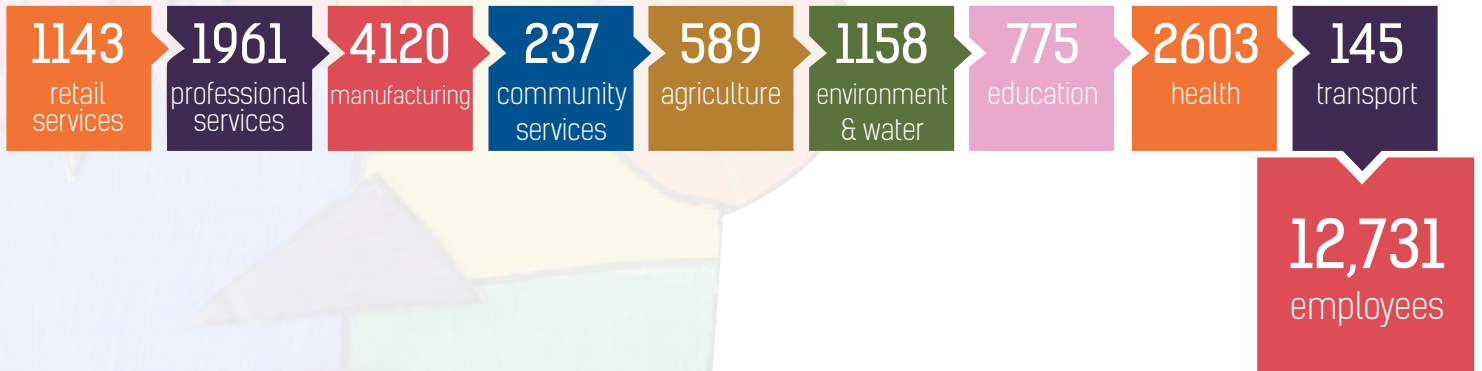
We have four Membership Categories



Our Members are spread across a range of industries



Our Members are the backbone of our community supporting many local jobs



Member Benefits



gold

\$10,000 for 1 year
(plus gst)

GOLD & SILVER MEMBER FUNCTION
AGM INVITATION (4 GUESTS)
MEMBER EVENTS (4 GUESTS)
GOLD MEMBER LUNCHEON
INVITATION TO VISITING MINISTER EVENTS
NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING - LOGO
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

BUSINESS ADVOCACY
CONSULTATION WITH EXECUTIVE AND BOARD
JOIN A DELEGATION TO ADVOCATE IN CANBERRA
OPPORTUNITY TO CO-HOST AN EVENT
WEBSITE ADVERTISING - LOGO
ANNUAL REPORT INCLUSION - LOGO



silver

\$5,000 for 1 year
(plus gst)

GOLD & SILVER MEMBER FUNCTION
AGM INVITATION (3 GUESTS)
MEMBER EVENTS (3 GUESTS)
OPPORTUNITY TO CO-HOST AN EVENT
INVITATION TO VISITING MINISTER EVENTS
CONSULTATION WITH EXECUTIVE
NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING - LOGO

WEBSITE ADVERTISING - LOGO
ANNUAL REPORT INCLUSION - LOGO
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION



bronze

\$2,000 for 1 year
(plus gst)

MEMBER EVENTS (2 GUEST)
AGM INVITATION (2 GUEST)
INVITATION TO VISITING MINISTER EVENTS
CONSULTATION WITH EXECUTIVE
ANNUAL REPORT INCLUSION - LOGO
WEBSITE ADVERTISING - LOGO
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION



community

not for profit

MEMBER EVENTS (1 GUEST)
AGM INVITATION (1 GUEST)
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION
ANNUAL REPORT INCLUSION - LOGO
WEBSITE ADVERTISING - LOGO



Our Members: Gold



www.tatura.com.au



COPULOS GROUP

(03) 5822 8800



www.ffgl.com.au



www.gvwater.vic.gov.au



Goulburn Murray
Credit Union

customer owned banking

www.gmcu.com.au



www.g-mwater.com.au



GVHealth

www.gvhealth.org.au



KRESKAS BROS. TRANSPORT

www.kbtransport.com.au



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

www.latrobe.edu.au/shepparton



making your life easier ...

www.mbmgroup.com.au



www.opg.net



www.gotafe.vic.edu.au



www.murraydairy.com.au



www.sheppnews.com.au



www.pental.com.au



www.theapprenticeshipfactory.com.au



www.unimelb.edu.au



RUBICON™

www.rubiconwater.com



www.monarchpersonnel.com.au

Our Members: Silver



Our Members: Bronze



THE WOOLSHED
EMERALD BANK



Welcome to the Courtyard Motor Inn



FOCUS CARDS & GIFTS
"When it really matters"



theworkgroup



GRAHAM HILL EYECARE
OPTOMETRISTS



PH. (03) 5823 2940

www.sheppartonbmw.com.au



Goulburn Valley Imaging Group

Our Members: Bronze



Our Members: Community



GOULBURN MURRAY
LOCAL **LEARNING** AND
EMPLOYMENT NETWORK



Fairley
Leadership
Program









ConnectGV

ConnectGV is committed to providing individualised options for local people with a disability and their families to ensure their goals and dreams are achieved. Commencing more than 65 years ago, due to an identified need in our community, ConnectGV has been committed to 'building on what matters' over the decades, to become a leading local disability service and registered NDIS provider offering Individual Supports, Employment and Accommodation.

ConnectGV's vision is for a fully inclusive community and to that end it seeks partnerships that allow the organisation to be able to offer many of these options within the local community. The organisation also owns and operates a number of Social Enterprises, namely Billabong Garden Complex, Billabong Sweets and Treats, Flower Power flower deliveries, GV Ragz, ConnectGV Works and it manages the canteen at Mooroopna Primary School. These businesses not only provide quality products and services to the local community, they provide valuable paid employment and training options for people with a disability.

The ConnectGV Art and Craft Group is part of Individual Support program, under the expert support and guidance of sessional teacher Julia Thomas. The groups have been working on a range of creative projects; many items are available for purchase at our Billabong Garden Complex. The Art and Craft program has always been a popular one, enabling participant's creative expression, "see the possibility not the disability". Creates opportunities to showcase and sell their works within the local community.



Artist

KIM RIVETT

Kim has been a member of ConnectGV since moving from Western Australia to Shepparton in 2011. Kim enjoys interacting with others and spending time in her art programs. Kim loves to receive praise for the work she does in her programs. She has a wonderful sense of humour and seeks out her friends at work.

Kim enjoys activities such as Ten Pin Bowling, going to the park, the beach and the Zoo. Kim can struggle with verbal communication and has a hearing impairment, so loves to express herself through her art.

During her sessions with ConnectGV Art Teacher Julia, Kim has spent time exploring the shapes and colours that she liked for her Picasso Face Portrait. Kim was able to trace the shapes onto large paper to form a face, and with the support of staff cut the shapes out of cardboard. This was a difficult task for Kim, requiring some patience as she was determined to complete the project. Kim's favourite part of the process was painting the pieces with her fingers and using different sized brushes to paint the canvas.




KR 19



COMMITTEE FOR
**GREATER
SHEPPARTON**



C/O MB+M - 23 Nixon Street, Shepparton Vic 3630

 03 5821 9177  admin@c4gs.com.au  www.c4gs.com.au