

MAYOR'S MINUTE

27 July 2024



DAVID ROBERTSON MAYOR, SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL

When you talk about supporting local enterprise, Sheepvention is the Mecca when it comes to the Southern Grampians region. Not only does the price on the door support the tireless work of the Hamilton P&A Society, but inside the gates you'll find a truly world-class agricultural event. Where else can you find such a breadth of education, opportunity and networking? Sheepvention is more than just a business weekend for farmers, it has grown to cater for people from across the community. Anyone who has attended in previous years can attest to the family friendly stalls, the fantastic wares on show, the inspiring talks, food, and the wonderful social atmosphere of the entire event.

Something to be admired is the work the organisers do to keep their ears to the ground, changing line-ups to suit the current climate of the industry. This year you're more likely to see education, health and finance taking the centre stage to accommodate our farming community, which has been doing it particularly tough. You will still see your favourites, but you will see an emphasis on the wellbeing of the farmer as well as the flock.

If the last few years have taught us anything, it's to look after our mental health and watch out for those around us. In keeping with this year's theme there will be a seminar on 'Farm Prosperity Essentials: Finance, Feeding, and Well-being' in the Red Shield Room on Monday at 10:00am that I plan on attending.

Rachel Root from Commonwealth Bank will be on hand to talk about cashflow, managing finances with your staff and getting the best deals possible for your business.

To speak to feeding, we will have Dr Jane Gausson from Thrive Agri Services and Tim Leeming from Paradoo Prime to talk about feeding ewes and managing weaners through to market.

We will then have the fantastic Ken Solly, a highly respected Rural Consultant and local Psychologist Emma Anderson to speak about mental health in rural Victoria. They'll show you how to identify troubling symptoms not only in yourself but also in those around you, giving practical advice to deal with these issues.

In tough times, we and by we, I mean not just farmers but all of us, bunker down to help each other. This is an unmissable opportunity to come together as a strong community, to hear the most up-to-date information and forge the tools we need to keep our industry strong.

Council will also have a stall at this year's event, so I encourage you come along, make the most of what Sheepvention has to offer, and most importantly, enjoy what truly is a magnificent local event.