

Get on board for better transport

THE push for better public transport services in South and West Gippsland has now gone on-line with the launch of the South West Transport Group's website, www.swgt.org.au.

Andrew McEwen, the chair of South West Transport Group said better public transport was crucial for the growth of the region.

"Getting action on long term plans for transport infrastructure for the outer southeast of Melbourne and South and West Gippsland is critical for business development and for affordable public transport."

He urged all residents to get on board the campaign.

"Experience has shown that well organised campaigns with strong grass roots support are successful in getting government's attention and commitment to address the pressing transport difficulties."

"Launching the website and Facebook page for the group provides a way for people and businesses to express their views and get on board with the campaign for transport improvements."

The South West Transport Group was formed in April 2011 to promote improvements in public transport, freight and rail services in South West Gippsland.

The transport group is arguing for:

- * Short term improvements to buses within South and West Gippsland and here and Melbourne;
- * Looping the rail

line from Cranbourne through Koo Wee Rup to Pakenham to ensure that the 300,000 new residents in the next 20 years are within 10 minutes of a rail station; and,

- * Reinstatement of rail line for Koo Wee Rup to Leongatha for passenger traffic and for freight.

The Mayor of South Gippsland Cr Warren Raabe launched the South West Transport Group website and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SWGT.GROUP) at a presentation by the group to South Gippsland Shire Council last week.

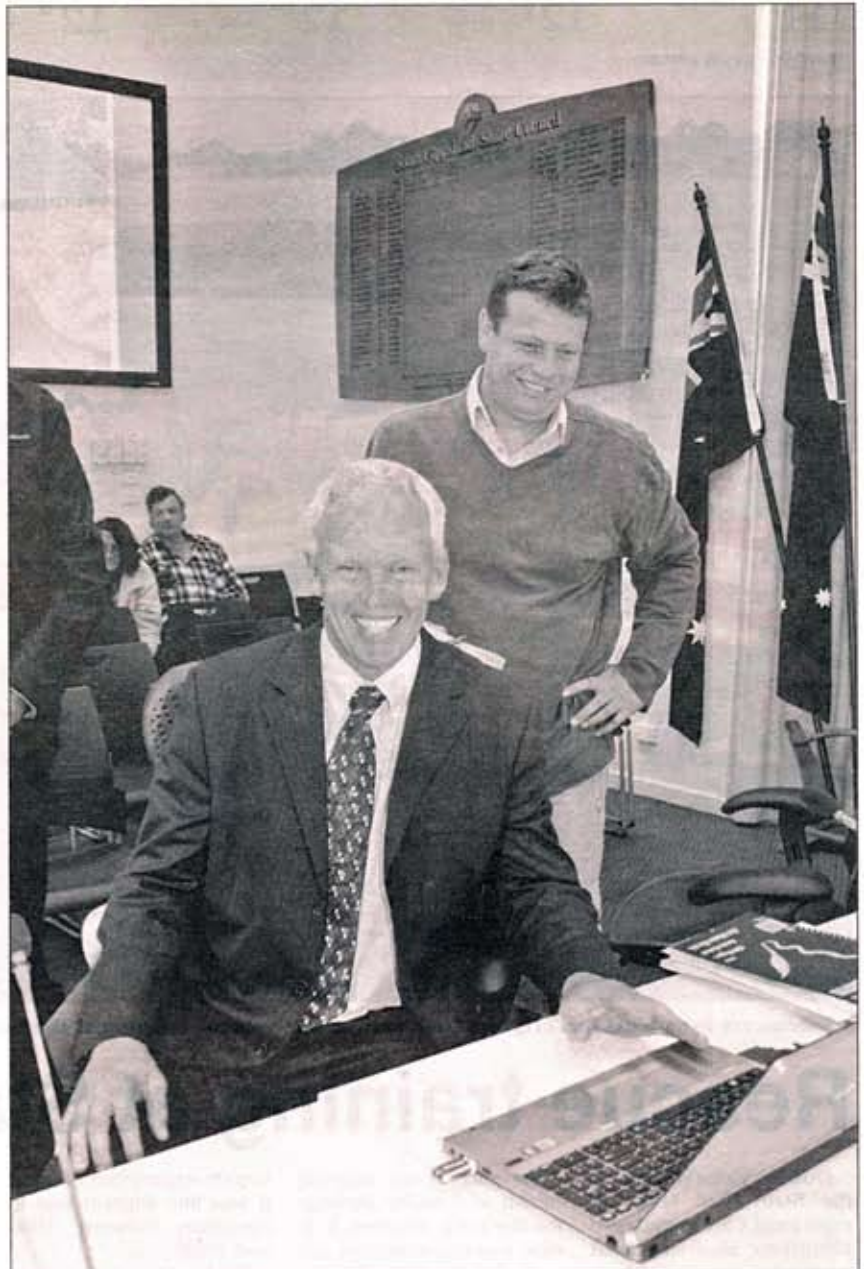
This website provides opportunities for feedback and involvement from local residents and businesses.

"The website provides details of our goals, the proposed projects and the benefits of improved transport services for South and West Gippsland and the state as a whole," Mr McEwen said.

"Investment in rail infrastructure and for public transport is a critical investment for productivity in Victoria and to ensure that families are insulated from rising energy process."

"Not doing the planning now will condemn families and businesses to growing congestion and with rapidly escalating energy prices and higher costs."

"The time to act on planning is now, not when congestion in inner Melbourne and on Monash Freeway makes life impossible."



Mayor Warren Raabe launches the South and West Gippsland Transport Group website, watched on by member Bret Levenspiel. D041312.