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**New Visitor Information Centre a winner for tourism in Nagambie**

Strathbogie Shire Council, in conjunction with Nagambie Development Enterprises, has officially opened the doors of its new Visitor Information Centre in Nagambie.

Located in prime position at the end of Jacobson's Outlook, overlooking the stunning Nagambie Lake and iconic Black Caviar statue, the new state of the art facility has one of the best views in town.

The new facility is the result of a partnership between Strathbogie Shire Council and Nagambie Development Enterprises.

Mr Gerry Ryan of Nagambie Development Enterprises has also constructed the Nagambie Brewery and Distillery and Ma Forbes Kitchen adjacent the information centre, which opened earlier this year and is attracting visitors from far and wide.

The modern, open layout of the Visitor Information Centre effectively incorporates Council's Customer Service and Visitor Information Services which operate out of the centre concurrently.

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Cr Amanda McClaren said the new and improved information centre has come at a great time for the town, with tourism and economic development booming.

"The volumes of tourists and visitors making their way to Nagambie is no surprise to local residents as we witness more and more people choosing Nagambie as a holiday destination and a place to escape for the weekend," Cr McClaren said.

"Council approved approximately \$33.5 million worth of development across the Strathbogie Shire last year, and Nagambie and surrounds accounted for more than half of that development.

We currently have over 500 residential lots proposed for Nagambie and surrounds that are under assessment by Council.

Not to mention the visitors our wonderful lake brings in through the countless regattas, competitions and training camps, especially GoFish Nagambie on ANZAC Day weekend which brought over 20,000 people to the region," Mayor McClaren said.

Nagambie Development Enterprises General Manager, John Beresford said the Nagambie Brewery and Distillery is also gaining significant traction with visitors and locals alike.

“We have had approximately 32,000 visitors to the Nagambie Brewery and Distillery in the months it has been operating and 70 percent have come from out of town, which is telling us that this attraction is really drawing people from further afield,” Mr Beresford said.

“The Visitor Information Centre has been a great collaboration, with a willing Council, willing investment from Nagambie Development Enterprises and buy-in from our community who are the heart and soul of this centre and who are the face of Nagambie.”

“Nagambie is an attractive investment opportunity for a number of reasons; it is an easy 90 minute drive from Melbourne, very close to the Tullamarine Airport, we’re over the Great Dividing Range and of course the magnificent waterways; These factors combined provide a compelling proposition,” Mr Beresford explained.

The Visitor Information Centre also provides Council Customer Service to residents and ratepayers, such as lodging a request, paying rates or animal registrations.

The new Visitor Information Centre is located at 293 High Street and is open 10am – 4pm seven days a week for tourist information and 10am - 4pm, Monday to Friday for Council Customer Service.

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