

Celebrating the work of a local visionary

Charles Heath, a visionary for East Gippsland and business leader, did not seek re-appointment to the board of Riviera Properties Pty Ltd at its annual general meeting last Friday.

In his farewell address to dinner guests held to recognise and celebrate Chas's fine work and commitment to Riviera Properties and the region, Chas opened with, "Today I said it was time to retire, and we've had a lot of fun, but I would have liked to have seen my dear old friend, mentor and strong supporter, Murray Graham, here tonight, but that cannot be the case."

"Murray knew commercial law and we put together many syndicates, sometimes we were more adventurous than we should have been, but we got things done. And of course with the help of the now retired shire engineer,

John Hopkins, we really did move things along in East Gippsland.

"The shire is different today; it lacks people like John Hopkins, who was there to do things. Riviera Properties was underway in two years and The Canals were started in 1983.

"In the '80s, East Gippsland lacked people and visitors. It was then that the 'Riviera Campaign' was launched and there's no doubt that it was the most successful campaign ever launched to put East Gippsland on the map.

"We should never have given it up; even today many local businesses carry their name with Riviera tagged to it somewhere.

"At the end of the day we need good local people to drive the area, to enjoy our wonderful natural surrounds, but there are huge challenges going forward.



Chairman of Riviera Properties, Robert Trenberth, with retired East Gippsland engineer, John Hopkins, and Charles Heath on the occasion of Mr Heath's retirement from the board of Riviera Properties. (PS)

"On closing, I would like to thank my family for their wonderful support, and also to Tim Weight, chief executive officer of Riviera Properties, a dedicated person, shareholder and employee of the company, his efforts ensuring a prosperous future for Riviera Properties."

Ian Campbell and Tim Weight both outlined Chas's character and qualities and concluded what

Chas had done for the area could not be measured.

Chas Heath produced developments people could not see coming and East Gippsland and its communities are the beneficiaries.

The foundation member of First National Real Estate and chairman / director of King and Heath, Mr Heath has been involved in the development of Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Metung, Sale, Lakes Entrance, Lake

Tyers, Maffra and Mallacoota.

Mr Heath's passion for East Gippsland is evident in his community involvement, including Apex, being a former councillor for the Town of Bairnsdale, and president and committee member of the Ski Club of East Gippsland (particularly involved in lodge construction). He is an avid fisherman and duck shooter.