



## New category for Community Grants Program

Council adopted its new Community Grants Program Policy at its meeting this week with the introduction of the Quick Response Grants category.

The new category replaces the Councillor Discretionary Fund Program, which formally ceased as a result of new legislation in February this year, by assisting community groups and/or individuals with minor funding allocations within a short time frame.

Coordinator Grants/Emergency Management, Penni Ellicott, said the new program would allow for grants up to \$1,000 from eligible applicants in any one financial year. Applications will be assessed monthly with a total of \$30,000 (or \$2,500 per month) allocated from the 2016/17 Community Grants budget of \$300,000.

“Council wanted to ensure that community groups and/or individuals still had the chance to access much needed funds at short notice and it was the opportune time to introduce the new category as the Community Grants Program Policy was due for review in accordance with Council's Corporate Policy Review Timetable,” Ms Ellicott explained.

The 2016/17 Community Grants Program will open 1 July 2016.

“Council strives to facilitate, plan and provide programs, services and opportunities that strengthen its communities and the Community Grants Program is one of the most immediate ways Council seeks to practically support a range of community-driven initiatives across the Shire,” Ms Ellicott said.

Council is hosting a two hour workshop for community groups interested in submitting an online community grants application via the SmartyGrants program. The hands-on workshop will guide participants through the essential steps needed to complete and submit a Community Grant and will be held at the Council Chambers, Leongatha on Tuesday 19 July. Session 1 will be held from 2.00pm - 4.00pm, Session 2 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. For more information and bookings, please contact Virginia Stacey on 5662 9852 or email [virginia.stacey@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:virginia.stacey@southgippsland.vic.gov.au).

Information about Council's Community Grants Program is also available on Council's website.

**PR1867 20/6/16**

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