

Message from the Administrator



Last week Christian, Rick and I had the opportunity to visit several sites in the east of the Shire. We visited Agnes Falls, the Long Jetty and Yanakie caravan parks, Silcock's Hill lookout, and several spots in Port Welshpool including the long jetty, boat ramp and the ferry terminal.

The sun was shining so it was a great day to be on the road seeing things first hand and chatting to people while we were out and about.

As you're no doubt aware South Gippsland has had an extremely wet few weeks. As a result of the saturated soil we've had landslips occurring right across the Shire. Some of these have unfortunately impacted on our local road network.

As I write this message we have eight roads either completely or partly closed in various parts of the municipality: Nicholls Road in Mardan, Clarkes and Griggs Roads in Hallston, Wild Dog Valley Road in Mt Eccles, Grand Ridge Road in Trida, Mt Eccles Road, Foster-Mirboo Road in Dollar; and Kardella-Fairbank Road in Kardella. The decision to close a road is not taken lightly, however when people's lives are at risk we're really left with no choice.

I appreciate that these closures have a significant impact on some of our residents, but I'd like to assure you that our engineers are working tirelessly to get these roads assessed and fixes designed so we can get the roads open again. In the meantime we appreciate your patience with what is ultimately a natural disaster.

Next week Council will be considering its Priority Projects for the next couple of years. There are some very exciting projects on that list, which makes me quite optimistic about the future of the municipality. We have already started meeting with funding and support agencies to advocate for some of the key infrastructure needs in the Shire. I am hopeful that those meetings will start to bear fruit over the next few months.

Right across Victoria last week, communities celebrated Kinship Carers Week. This was the first time this event was staged and it was a great opportunity to celebrate kinship carers and those who support them. Kinship carers raise over 70 per cent of the children in out-of-home care from all areas across Victoria and are responsible for ensuring outstanding outcomes for these vulnerable children.

If you know a kinship carer and didn't let them know how appreciated they are last week, then do it now. There are many kids who would be lost without them.

Julie Eisenbise - Administrator