

Message from the Administrator



It is important that we are prepared for the peak summer and visitor season, which is almost upon us. The Municipal Emergency Management Committee (MEMPC) recently met to discuss plans for this busy season. The MEMPC has representatives from all emergency and support services in the Shire. It is a timely reminder that those in bushfire prone areas should update and familiarise themselves with their bushfire plans. The Country Fire Authority and other emergency services do a wonderful job in keeping us safe and it is vital we prepare and take their advice for a safe season ahead.

The Local Law review is stimulating plenty of discussion in the community and we are receiving some great submissions in person and in writing. A number of the proposed amendments are a result of feedback that Council has received since the last Local Law review in 2014. From the consultation undertaken to date, it is clear that not all of these views are shared by the whole community. This is the intention of public consultation, to hear the thoughts and views of as many as possible. I can assure you that there is no rush to make changes, we will keep the conversation going as long as required to land on a Local Law that that reflects the overall community view.

This month I was hosted by the Rotary Club of Leongatha. I was impressed by the number of projects that this volunteer group are working on to make a positive contribution to their community. Service clubs are at the heart of the Shire providing such a variety of benefits and offer the chance to build new friendships.

We also had the awards night for Round One of the 2019/20 Community Grants Program where many community groups and volunteers were celebrated. We are proud to have awarded \$128,845 to 25 successful applicants for a range of projects that will develop community assets, build community capacity, strengthen community sport and create community culture. The contribution will support the projects worth a total value of \$612,000. It is the dedication of these community members that help our region flourish and is something they should take pride in. The next round of funding will open in the new year and we encourage anyone interested to keep an eye on Council's website for updates.

The Gippsland Local Government Network – the six local governments of the Gippsland region – met last week. It was an opportunity for a number of newly elected Mayors to discuss the key projects for the region. At the forefront were projects for transport, jobs and tourism. This network reflects the continuing advocacy for the region on multiple fronts. There's a lot going on: it feels like the next few years will be a very exciting time for Gippsland.

Julie Eisenbise
Chair Administrator