

Message from the Administrator



What a start we have had to the New Year by celebrating the South Gippsland Australia Day Awards this week. This was my first time attending the awards and it was wonderful to see the amount of community members recognised for their hard work.

All nominees should be proud as we had an excellent standard of applications from dedicated people who make incredible contributions for South Gippsland. Thank you for all that you do for our region and I hope that this recognition will only inspire you more to continue working hard on your passions.

Talking about coming together as a community I must recognise the adversity our neighbours in East Gippsland and other regions are experiencing due to the recent bushfires. The loss of lives, property and animals has truly been heartbreaking to hear and it has been difficult to even imagine what those who are affected are going through.

To assist in these times of need we have had 10 of our own staff members directly providing support at the relief centre in Bairnsdale and we will continue to provide staff and resources as requested from the Incident Control Centre and East Gippsland Shire Council.

I would like to take the time to thank these staff members who have been happy to assist during this crisis and working tirelessly to help those who need it most. This work is truly valued – it can be difficult at times providing relief but the difference you make is highly appreciated.

If you wish to help too please consider financial donations as we have been advised this is the best way to provide support at this time. Suggested charities include the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund and Victorian Bushfire Appeal – you can learn more and find out how to donate at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/bushfires

While South Gippsland is not under threat by these fires we have seen some of the fall out effects with the amount of smoke that has been impacting the region. The smoke has been hitting hazardous levels so I urge everyone to keep watch of the Vic Emergency alerts, stay out of the smoke when they can and if necessary wear a P2 or N95 mask available at hardware stores.

Finally I must remind you all that a number of community events are taking place this weekend to celebrate Australia Day. These are a great opportunity to get together and reflect on what we can do together as a nation – so if you aren't heading away please head down! For a full list of the events happening please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Julie Eisenbise
Chair Administrator