

# Message from the Administrator



During emergency situations government agencies come together to plan for every contingency. In South Gippsland we have the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) which includes representatives from Council, DHHS, Ambulance Victoria, Vic Police, CFA, Heath Agencies and Parks Victoria, amongst others.

The MEMPC works in the background to ensure our emergency plans are enacted smoothly. A plan addressing what should happen in a pandemic situation already exists and was recently activated by the committee. The plan outlines the steps that should be taken during and after the emergency and can be viewed on Council's website.

The plan recommends that social distancing be implemented as a control measure in the event of a pandemic. In light of this, last Friday it was decided that Council-run facilities should be closed to help protect the community. This has meant the closure of Council's halls, Coal Creek Community Park and Museum, Splash and some recreation reserves.

We would like to thank all of the committees, volunteers and staff involved with these facilities for supporting this action. Although it is undoubtedly an inconvenience, the closures have been made with the safety of the community in mind.

We would also like to acknowledge the committees and event organisers from across the Shire who have taken the initiative to enact social distancing by postponing or cancelling events and activities.

In Council's noticeboard this week we address how important it is that we all come together to support each other during this time. It is a message worth reiterating. South Gippslanders are resilient and thoughtful and these traits will help to ensure that we can smoothly and calmly work through the pandemic. Please take the time to check in on each other and particular the elderly and the vulnerable.

Our local businesses will also be doing it tough right now, so please consider shopping local whenever possible. Dollars spent in our community help to keep local businesses running and residents employed.

**Julie Eisenbise – Chair Administrator**