

COVID-19 Update

The following is from South Gippsland Shire Council CEO, Kerryn Ellis:

The current situation with COVID-19 is a unique and challenging one for all of us. Council is taking a leadership role in South Gippsland by working to keep our own services operating while also supporting our community. With that in mind, we continue to respond to Commonwealth and State directives as they come through.

- Council's Customer Service Centre will close for face-to-face transactions at 3.00pm today and will not re-open for the foreseeable future. However, customer service is still available and may be accessed via telephone, online or email. All of Council's services will continue to be offered at this stage – it may simply be that the person on the other end of the phone or responding on Facebook is working remotely instead of being in the office.
- On Friday we made the call to close all buildings and facilities managed by Council or through Section 86 Committees. This includes SPLASH and many halls and recreation reserves. I'd like to make it clear that the facilities can still be used for casual activities – such as walking the dog or having a kick of the footy – but planned gatherings are not permitted. However please remember to respect the current social distancing guidelines to keep yourself and those around you safe.
- We have also made the decision to close the two caravan parks operated by Council. We are working with those currently onsite and are contacting those with future bookings. We will not be taking any new bookings for the time being.
- Council's Visitor Information Centres will continue to operate on a telephone-only basis.
- I urge people to follow advice about social distancing. So far we've been lucky not to have a COVID-19 outbreak in South Gippsland. While it is almost inevitable that it will affect some of us, by maintaining good health hygiene and keeping ourselves at a remove from each other we may be successful in limiting its spread.
- If you want up-to-date information about COVID-19 you should visit the Commonwealth and State Health Departments' websites:
 - <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>
 - <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>
- Remember to check in on family, friends and neighbours over the coming weeks and months. We are a tightknit community and no one should be left to deal with this crisis without a support network.

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