



## Shop Local in South Gippsland

Supporting local businesses during difficult times is the aim of the new [www.shopsouthgippsland.com.au](http://www.shopsouthgippsland.com.au) website which was launched last week. The website features food, retail and service businesses in South Gippsland that remain open; either with increased social distancing measures in place or with takeaway or home delivery options available.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Manager Economic Development and Tourism, Renae Littlejohn is encouraging people to use the website to shop local.

"Our business community is doing it tough right now so it is important that we come together – as a community - to support them where we can. One way that we can help is by shopping local. If your situation allows it, why not take a night off from cooking to order a meal from a local eatery or to look at what is available at local retail businesses before searching further afield," said Ms. Littlejohn.

"It is amazing how creative some businesses have been in adapting to the new circumstances we find ourselves in. Many businesses have come up with unique ways to continue to meet their customer's needs – whether it be online consultations or doing delivery services in their local area. They really deserve our support."

The website can be filtered by town or by service type and menus can be downloaded from many local eateries. Currently there are close to 80 businesses on the site but the list is constantly growing so people are encouraged to check back regularly.

Food, retail and services businesses that are open can be included on the site at no cost. To add your details, simply head to [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/shoplocal](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/shoplocal) and complete the short registration form.

"Although this is undoubtedly a difficult time for many of us, sometimes there can be a silver lining in challenging situations. Perhaps the silver lining for South Gippsland businesses is that we can better explore what is available in our own region and make a commitment to buying local whenever we can", said Ms. Littlejohn.

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