



## Celebrating Our Local Community Champions

South Gippsland Shire Council recognised our frontline health workers and local community for all their efforts during the COVID-19 crisis at its meeting last week.

Council took the opportunity to stand and acknowledge local emergency services, health care workers, essential businesses and the general community as an act of gratitude for their service and generosity.

South Gippsland Shire's Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise was proud of how the South Gippsland community was banding together and helping one another during such a difficult time.

"We remain standing to acknowledge all our emergency services working so hard during this period of time; we wish them the very best and thank them for their service. This is for all our emergency services and health care workers and extends to our supermarkets and stores which remain open and to our farmers who are feeding the whole nation at the moment.

"I would also like to acknowledge our community, they have been exceptional in understanding the necessary rules that are currently in place including social isolation and have observed it.

"But there are so many people out there - the word community is used so many times but the true people in our community at the moment are those that have contacted their neighbours – that may have cooked a meal, made a phone call or done some shopping for someone. They are truly our community members of which we are so proud and we thank them as well," said Administrator Eisenbise.

This sentiment was further strengthened by Administrators Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown in relation to local businesses.

"In speaking to the CEO at ViPlus Jon McNaught about how we could support their work during this time, he instead was able to offer Council 50,000 face masks for the local community and in particular our frontline health workers (from a total 100,000 masks they have donated recently). What an extraordinary offer and how welcome it is for not just in South Gippsland but right across the region. We're very fortunate to have these outstanding local employers who go the extra mile to support their workforce and customers but also understand they operate their businesses in a community," said Administrator Zahra AM.

“It was really a thrill to talk to a number of medium to large businesses such as Select Produce, Schreurs, Burra Steel and the Poowong Abattoir. There were some great stories which enforce the reasons this Shire is in the strong position that it is in currently. These employers are still in business but they are confronting challenges including their markets being affected by COVID-19. Despite this they simply grit their teeth and keep going and we are fortunate that while their challenges are significant they are not critical. We are indebted to these businesses for our economic development journey. We all need to understand that the future of this Shire is in our hands and these businesses show just what we can do when we put our minds to it,” said Administrator Brown.

Residents can learn how our local businesses are adapting and how to provide their support by visiting [www.shopsouthgippsland.com.au](http://www.shopsouthgippsland.com.au)

Those wishing to watch the footage of this recognition on demand can visit Council’s website at [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live)

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