

# Administrators' Message



*South Gippsland*  
Shire Council

After a short break from the Administrators' Message we are happy to be back providing the community with our regular update. Thank you to Kerryn for her wonderful message last week – we thank her for supporting us and staff while dealing with the pandemic.

Firstly, we are pleased to see that the Leongatha cenotaph has been successfully restored after last year's accident. There are many people in our community who served themselves or have loved ones who have served. They will be heartened to see the memorial reinstated.

Since our last message there has been a few updates in the COVID-19 space; restrictions are beginning to lift and we have seen some sense of normality return to the lives of many which has been seen as a saving grace. While we aren't out of the woods yet, it is important that we reflect on the last few months and the inspiring work in our community. While we have remained physically apart we have seen connections still made in innovative ways, from video catch-ups to virtual classrooms. We have also seen the return to some of life's simple pleasures – more time to bake, garden, go for walks and check in on those around us. This has certainly been a challenging time but South Gippsland should be proud of how we have managed during this crisis now and into recovery.

On Friday, Rick was on hand to accept a shipment of donated masks from ViPlus CEO Jon McNaught. It has taken a lot of work to get the masks through to South Gippsland and we are extremely thankful for the persistence of everyone involved. These masks are integral to supporting those on the front line.

We have also been proud to see the release of the COVID-19 Support Booklet. For those who may not be aware, Council worked in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council, Latrobe Health Assembly, South Coast Primary and Community Partnership and the Department of Health and Human Services to deliver a booklet of local services providing support to those experiencing difficulty at the moment. This has been a tremendous feat and we thank everyone involved for their commitment. If you would like to view the booklet please visit our website: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/covid19](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/covid19)

We know that our business sector has also been looking for support and while our proposed \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package intends to provide just that, we are actively listening to provide interim measures. Our Economic Development team has released a Business Support Survey to gain an understanding of how our local businesses have managed during the pandemic and determine where support is needed right now. If you own a local business and haven't completed the survey yet you can visit [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/business](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/business) and select the 'Business Support Survey'. Our Economic Development and Tourism team is also a call away to provide further assistance at 5662 9200.

As we sign off this week we would like to thank the community for their dedication to one another and everyone's health and safety during this time. It truly has been appreciated and demonstrates the resilience of our people.

