

Administrators' Message



It is certainly an important week for Council with our upcoming meeting on Wednesday where a number of key decisions need to be made including for the 2020-2024 Proposed Council Plan and 2020/21 Draft Annual Budget. These documents create the foundation for all of Council's operations – it's quite a big task indeed!

This meeting is also just one small part of the process for developing a Council Plan and Annual Budget. Months of planning has taken place to get us to this point along with extensive community consultation including the hearing of public submissions which were held last week.

We would just like to take a moment to thank everyone involved so far in this process – from our staff to the community – as it would not be possible without their dedication. It is only by working collaboratively that we can create these strategic documents and ensure that we provide services and assets that make the lives of South Gippslanders better.

Also as part of the Council Meeting, we will have an opportunity for us to acknowledge The Great Southern Star's 130 years of service to the community. This length of time is tremendous and we cannot overstate the importance of the generations of local news published by The Star. We are thankful for what the paper has been able to provide to the South Gippsland community prior to its closure: the publication will certainly be missed.

Outside of the Council Meetings we have also been checking in on our local community groups and how they have been managing during the COVID-19 crisis. We've been very impressed with the way they have responded to restrictions and have been taking social distancing seriously to ensure the health of their members and our wider community.

As we come into the recovery phase for the pandemic it has also been heartening to see how our local businesses continue to adapt and are preparing for how they will operate into the future. We were pleased to hear that over the long weekend many businesses had a spike in visitors, which is very encouraging. It is clear that people are wanting to get out and about now that restrictions have relaxed and many are feeling more confident to visit our beautiful region. As we now look towards the June/July school holidays we hope that this will continue to grow and businesses will have greater opportunities to attract visitors.

While we certainly have a long way to go when it comes to managing COVID-19 and the economic stability of our region these opportunities to drive visitors to our region and build our local businesses will be key to our future.

Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators