

Administrators' Message



South Gippsland
Shire Council

As we adapt to life with a large proportion of our state back in Stage Three restrictions it is hard not to watch what is occurring and reflect on our own actions in South Gippsland. While we remain thankful that our region is not severely impacted right now, it is a timely moment to pause and consider just how we can continue to protect one another.

In order to keep our community members safe, West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation has implemented a few additional safety measures at our local libraries. This means anyone accessing our libraries will need to provide photo identification, must be a local resident for access and anyone whose primary place of residence is in a lockdown area will not be permitted entry.

While many are doing the right thing, these precautions are in place to reduce risks associated with any individuals who are not taking the current precautions seriously. It is great to see our local libraries taking this lead.

We would like to congratulate our community once again on how well you have been working together during this pandemic, by taking each regulation on board and adapting our lives accordingly. No one could have predicted where 2020 was going to take us and while we hope that we see normality sooner rather than later it is making us more resilient, so we can come out of this crisis stronger than before.

By social distancing, sticking to visitor limits in our homes and respecting the rules in place for our businesses we are keeping each other safe. The growing number of cases around metropolitan Melbourne, Mitchell Shire and beyond are a testament to how quickly this virus can spread and the implications it can have. While we hope numbers across Victoria start to drop soon, they do demonstrate what can happen if people become complacent and aren't mindful of why the current restrictions are necessary.

Don't forget that if you have any symptoms - no matter how mild - you are encouraged to get tested and stay home. By doing so you are keeping everyone who is usually around you safe and ensuring our region can continue with low cases of COVID-19.

In order to support our community during this time we have been working hard to get the first phase of the \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package in place. A key part of the package are the grants that have been made available, particularly for our business sector.

Local businesses have the opportunity to apply for a one-off payment of \$1000 (ex GST) to spend on essential business fees, services and/or materials. To maximise the benefit to South Gippsland, successful applicants are encouraged to spend the grant locally.

Applications are open now until 31 July and all business owners are encouraged to review the criteria and apply. For more information on how to apply for these grants or our other support initiatives please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/covidsupport

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